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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/210 of 20 December 1988, 44/182 of 19 December 1989, 45/231 of 21 December 1990 and 46/170 of 19 December 1991.

2. The report includes a description of activities developed in the framework of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC) in the period September 1991-June 1993. The overall objective of the Special Plan is to promote international cooperation in support of peace, democracy and development in Central America. In response to General Assembly resolution 42/231, the Special Plan initiated its activities in September 1988 for a period of three years, after which the General Assembly extended the Plan for an additional three-year period by its resolution 45/231.

3. The General Assembly decided to approve the inclusion of Panama as a full and formal participant in the Special Plan by resolution 46/170. Thus, the mechanisms for the implementation of the Special Plan integrated six countries of the Central American isthmus, while support of uprooted populations involved activities in some areas of Belize and Mexico.

4. Important progress in the processes of peace and democratization was achieved in the subregion during the period covered by this report. The signature of the Peace Agreement in El Salvador in January 1992 initiated a fruitful process of peace-building in that country while continued efforts were made to resolve the conflict in Guatemala through negotiations.

5. The presidential summit meetings of the session at Tegucigalpa in December 1991, Managua in June 1992 and Panama in December 1992 continued to show the determination of the Governments and people of Central America to seek regional solutions to shared problems. In Tegucigalpa, the Presidents signed a protocol establishing the Central American Integration System (SICA) and also signed the Tegucigalpa Commitment on human development, childhood and youth. In Panama, the Presidents ratified the protocol on SICA and also approved the Agricultural Commitment. The Central American agenda opens new challenges and opportunities for the Special Plan as well as for other international cooperation initiatives aimed at the subregion as a whole.

6. Notwithstanding the progress made so far, continued efforts are needed to consolidate peace and democratic institutions in Central America. Action aiming at the social reintegration of populations uprooted by conflict is still a major priority. The stabilization and adjustment programmes implemented have yet to generate broad-based sustained and sustainable economic growth. Urgent solutions are required to reduce the poverty and inequities affecting the most vulnerable groups.

II. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

7. Progress achieved in the processes of peace and economic stabilization resulted in a significant economic reactivation in Central America in 1992. Domestic efforts and some conjunctural factors, such as higher internal rates of interest than the international average, attracted sizeable external resources, which contrasted with a limited external demand. Internal demand expanded greatly as real salaries rose after declining for almost 10 years, unemployment fell in some countries and prices in the domestic market became more stable.

8. Resources received by Central America in 1992 consisted of short-run capital inflows, repatriation of capital, credit provided in the framework of structural adjustment programmes and transfers by nationals living overseas. Private investment responded positively to the favourable local climate. However, uncertainty hampers the continuity of positive external resource inflows, especially considering the trends observed during the first half of 1993 - world recession, the decline of prices for local traditional exports and growing difficulties encountered by some export products in entering foreign markets. Trade preferences received by Central American countries may be affected by larger preferences given to competitors and the potential loss of trade preference systems that benefit the subregion.

9. The historical link between the behaviour of export prices for traditional products and Central American economic performance was not evident during the period. Nevertheless, given the pressures on external accounts and uncertainties regarding the continuity of foreign loans, credit and investment, the 1992 experience does not seem to be a new form of self-sustained growth based on external resources. All countries in the Central American isthmus adopted economic policies based mainly on trade and financial liberalization, privatization and a certain austerity in public finance.

10. According to ECLAC statistics gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.8 per cent in 1992, a rate significantly higher than the average for the 1980s. Only Nicaragua showed stagnation, while the Costa Rican economy grew at the fastest pace - 7.3 per cent. It is important to note that overall regional economic growth derived largely from internal demand and not exclusively from external demand, as it has in recent years.

11. The agricultural sector grew at a slow pace, except in the case of El Salvador, where land that had remained idle during the armed conflict was put into production, the transport system was improved and there was a larger availability of rural labour. The other countries were affected by the decline of international prices for traditional export products, particularly coffee (mostly Costa Rica and Honduras) and sugar cane (Nicaragua and Honduras) as well as by foreign subsidies in the case of cotton (Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras). In addition, lower international prices and the banana quota established in mid-1993 by the European countries had negative effects.

12. The production of basic grains varied among countries. Trade liberalization influenced certain specializations: rice output increased in Costa Rica while maize and sorghum decreased. The peace processes in Nicaragua and El Salvador favoured an increase in maize production. The results of the adoption of price bands and trade liberalization cannot yet be clearly predicted.

13. An average manufacturing output grew at a moderate rate (except in Nicaragua) due to a higher domestic demand compared with past years, and the reactivation of the Central American Common Market. External demand favoured non-traditional exports, such as textiles in Costa Rica, wooden products in Honduras and pharmaceutical goods in El Salvador.

14. The success of the anti-inflationary effort of 1991 persisted in 1992, with prices increasing at a lower average rate. After the hyper-inflation of 1990, inflation in Nicaragua diminished to an average of 20.3 per cent in 1992 (only 3.9 per cent if a December-to-December period is considered). Inflationary pressures accumulated in El Salvador and Guatemala, which registered above-average, though still moderate, inflation.

15. Real salaries recovered significantly in almost all countries, although they did not attain the level achieved before the crisis of the early 1980s.

16. The trade account deficit was the most troubling characteristic of the external sector. Trade liberalization within the region as well as in the rest of the world, together with practically no fluctuation in the rates of foreign exchange and a notable economic recovery (except in Nicaragua) gave rise to massive import growth. At the same time, the fall in international prices for traditional export goods deteriorated the terms of trade of the subregion. The decreases in export values was not offset by the growth of non-traditional exports.

17. In spite of lower international interest rates and favourable renegotiations of the external debt by several countries, debt service continued to be a burden on current accounts, although the latter was alleviated by inflows from tourism (Costa Rica and Guatemala), maquila production (except in Nicaragua) and private transfers (particularly to Guatemala and El Salvador). A positive inflow of foreign short-run and investment capital more than compensated for current account deficits, although international reserves decreased in Guatemala and Honduras.

18. The subregion undertook active trade negotiations oriented to the international market. The reincorporation of Honduras in the Central America free trade area in 1991 and the elimination of certain import surcharges by several of the countries facilitated intraregional trade. A Central American Uniform Customs Code (CAUCA) was agreed upon and negotiations were carried out to establish a Central American common external tariff (with a 5 per cent floor and 20 per cent ceiling).

19. The stabilization programmes implemented in recent years considerably reduced fiscal deficits. Costa Rica achieved the highest decrease - from 3.1 per cent of GDP in 1991 to 1.9 per cent in 1992. Tax collection in the region improved in real terms, due to efforts in the modernization of tax

systems, new rules against tax evasion and the widening of tax bases as well as the imposition of new levies, such as the 10 per cent value-added tax in El Salvador.

20. Liberalization of exchange rates and financial systems widened the scope of action for private banks. The inflow of foreign exchange created excess liquidity, which necessitated the implementation of open market operations by the central banks and certain contraction measures, such as mandatory investment in public securities (Guatemala) and purchase of stabilization bonds (El Salvador).

21. In general, the subregion still suffers from acute human development problems and social disparities. Widespread poverty and an inequitable distribution of the costs of economic adjustment represent obstacles to the goals of a firm and enduring peace in Central America.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL PLAN

22. The implementation of the Special Plan proceeded according to the objectives and orientations established by its coordinating mechanisms, which comprise the six Central American Governments, regional integration institutions, the United Nations Development Programm (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other international organizations, as well as cooperating Governments. The United Nations Development Programme is the lead agency for the Special Plan: programmes and projects related to its promotion, execution and coordination are financed from Special Programme Resources as authorized by the UNDP Governing Council. US$ 20 million was originally allocated for the period 1989-1991 and an additional US$ 20 million was earmarked for the period starting 1 January 1992.

23. An updated version of the strategy framework for the Special Plan was adopted, at meetings of its external mechanisms of implementation in November 1991 and November 1992, which was approved by Governments in February 1993. Sectoral/thematic priorities were defined, taking into consideration the evolving international context, the declarations and agreements of Central American presidential summit meetings, the need to coordinate with other mechanisms for cooperation within the subregion and progress achieved in the implementation of the Special Plan.

24. Under the revised strategy, the Special Plan retained the primary objective of consolidating a firm and lasting peace in Central America, the promotion of development programmes and projects centred on the concept of human development. These include the continuation of activities already initiated in the areas of, inter alia, peace-keeping and support to refugees, returnees and displaced persons; agricultural development; infrastructure (electricity, telecommunications and road networks); social development; environment and sustainable development; and strengthening of subregional and national institutions. Two new priority areas were incorporated in the revised strategy: productive modernization and human resources development.

25. Since the launching of the Special Plan, 71 technical assistance projects (of which 15 have already been completed) have been approved, at a cost of US$ 138 million. Of this amount, US$ 32.7 million corresponds to approved projects financed from UNDP Special Programme Resources and the balance of US$ 105.4 million derives from co-financing sources. More than US$ 12 million is additionally contributed through parallel financing to projects administered by UNDP. Annex I shows the status of project approvals as at 31 August 1993.

26. In addition to the projects mentioned above, it is noteworthy that, under the Special Plan, portfolios of investment and technical cooperation projects have been formulated for an approximate amount of US$ 2.3 billion in external resources. The mobilization of resources resulting from sectoral/thematic meetings with cooperating Governments and institutions and other meetings with donors has resulted in formalized commitments amounting to US$ 643 million, while another US$ 442 million is being negotiated. Details concerning specific sectors appear under the relevant sections below.

IV. EMERGENCY PROGRAMME

A. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons

27. The emergency programme provides assistance to populations uprooted by conflicts in the subregion. As an ad hoc mechanism of the Special Plan, the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) provides a framework for a process of consensus on the implementation of the Central American Economic Plan of Action (see A/46/458, para. 18 and A/44/958, annex), among the convening Governments (the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico), the international donor community, the United Nations system (particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNDP) and the participating non-governmental organizations. Two issues, the transition-into-development stage and the sustainability of the CIREFCA process, have received constant attention. At the second international meeting of the follow-up committee of the Conference, held at San Salvador in April 1992, the process was extended for a further two years until May 1994. At the same meeting, the convening Governments presented 65 projects requiring priority external financing of US$ 138.3 million. The donors pledged US$ 51.6 million for CIREFCA projects and US$ 31.1 million for initiatives in support of reconciliation, democratization and the demobilization of former combatants. Since the beginning of the CIREFCA process in 1989, a total of 153 projects have been recorded, requiring external funding in the amount of US$ 335.7 million. A total of 123 projects have been financed from the US$ 240.1 million mobilized, mostly in the form of grants, without considering the Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE), which is described in paragraph 31 below.

28. Given its success in bringing about actual solutions to problems affecting refugee, returnee and displaced populations in Central America, Belize and Mexico, and the follow-up mechanisms implemented, CIREFCA has played an important role in the process of consultation and coordination among interested parties and has contributed to the creation of a non-politicized humanitarian mechanism which is an important tool for consolidating peace in the subregion. An important task ahead will be to ensure the transition from emergency to

development, thus ensuring the reintegration of uprooted populations and the rebuilding of the social fabric as part of an overall strategy for human development at the local level.

29. The United Nations Secretariat has supported the coordination of the CIREFCA process within the framework of the Joint Task Force with the participation of UNHCR and UNDP. In support of the transition-to-development stage which is gradually being reached by the uprooted populations of the subregion, UNDP has led the process of coordination since July 1993, while UNHCR continues to provide support by fulfilling its protection and assistance roles. The joint UNHCR-UNDP follow-up unit in Costa Rica continues to assist in the implementation of CIREFCA and maintains close contact with all interested parties.

30. The Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America is one of the main components of the CIREFCA process and the largest single operation undertaken in Central America in this important area of action. The Programme encompasses six national projects and three regional subprogrammes, with a total funding of US$ 122.3 million (US$ 115 million from the Government of Italy, US$ 6.5 million from the United Nations Capital Development Fund and US$ 832,000 contributed by UNDP). It is managed by UNDP, with the participation of UNHCR, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

31. PRODERE has worked successfully to promote peace and reconciliation and has sought to benefit more than 320,000 persons directly and another 389,000 indirectly in the five Central American countries and Belize, involving 40 municipalities and 300 local development committees, which it helped create. The achievements of PRODERE are notable in such areas as human rights; education (more than 140 schools built, 1,800 educators trained and 28,000 people taught basic reading skills); health (more than 60 centres built and many others supplied with medicine and equipment); skills training; credit and productive projects (micro-enterprises, agricultural development); infrastructure (water and sanitation provided for 257,000 persons and more than 800 kilometres of roads built); and local development. Its operation is based upon a participatory approach.

32. The PRODERE experience and that of other efforts in the framework of CIREFCA in Central America are being transferred to other regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Cambodia, where post-conflict peace-building requires comprehensive efforts to consolidate peace through community participation as a basis for well-being among people.

B. Food aid

33. Cooperation under the Special Plan has been responsive to two main factors that have had particularly severe consequences for the poor: civil strife and long-term structural needs. As peace agreements were accorded in various countries, assistance was provided to encourage the reintegration of returnees

and to rebuild shattered economies. During 1991-1993, WFP overall assistance to Central America and Panama amounted to more than US$ 112.6 million, corresponding to a total of more than 195,000 metric tons of food aid. WFP also provided additional assistance aimed at enhancing the capacity of Governments to implement development projects, as well as non-food items such as vehicles, equipment and tools, and agricultural seeds. Project food aid has primarily been directed to support agricultural development to help the rural poor and human resources development.

V. PROGRAMME OF IMMEDIATE ACTION

34. The Special Plan includes activities concerned with the reduction of the financial constraints hampering the economic reactivation and long-term development of the subregion. Two areas were identified as requiring immediate action: (a) the problem of the external debt and (b) the financial support required to reactivate the Central American Common Market and bridge temporary imbalances in countries' external accounts.

A. External debt

35. UNDP has assisted the needs of individual countries in external debt negotiations through its regular programme, since the negotiations have proceeded on a country-by-country basis. At the subregional level, a UNDP-financed project, executed jointly by ECLAC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), supported the installation of computerized systems for handling data related to the debt in each Central American country.

B. Financing to reactivate the Central American Common Market and reduce imbalances in countries' balance of payments

36. Within the framework of the Special Plan, the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Central American Governments, at the Dublin Ministerial Conference 1/ in April 1990 and by addendum protocol signed in El Salvador on 3 July 1991, had agreed on the implementation of a subregional payments system to facilitate intraregional trade flows. Given the substantial change in economic conditions in Central America, the parties agreed in May 1993 that resources totalling 40 million European currency units (ECU) would instead be assigned to the reactivation of regional export trade. A fund in support of exports (FOEXCA) will be established at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) once the agreement is duly signed. The EEC also contributed ECU 30 million to create a Special Fund (CEPEX) managed by CABEI to strengthen the export capacity of two countries structurally affected by balance-of-trade problems, namely Nicaragua and Honduras.

VI. ECONOMIC REACTIVATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Industrial rehabilitation and reconversion

37. Following the priorities established in the revised PEC strategy framework, a UNIDO-led technical mission financed by UNDP analysed the prospects of industrial modernization in the subregion from a broad perspective, including macroeconomic policy; financial, technological and trade-related aspects; and institutional capacity. The overall structure and trends of the Central American manufacturing sector were analysed, as well as main branches of industry (textiles, shoe and leather, agro-industry and metalworking) and significant enterprises. A technical assistance programme was designed with four major components: (a) macroeconomic policies directed to the private sector in the context of economic liberalization and insertion in the world market, with particular attention to the North American Free Trade Area; (b) strengthening of private enterprise systems with emphasis on small and medium industries; (c) establishment of a subregional technology system in relation to private sector generic requirements; and (d) financial systems in support of industrial modernization and exports. The programme is expected to be implemented in coordination with the activities promoted by different cooperating agencies.

B. Agricultural development

38. The project entitled "Regional unit of technical assistance" (RUTA II) incorporated Panama in the period 1992-1993. It is implemented by the World Bank with financing from UNDP, the Government of Japan, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in addition to in-kind contribution provided by the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The project assisted in formulating and implementing sectoral agricultural policies and institutional reform related to overall programmes of structural adjustment; in carrying out key sectoral studies at the regional and national levels; and in preparing and securing resources for lending operations and investment projects, notably those linked to production of small farmers. Other outputs concern the project's objectives of addressing other issues, such as food security and production of basic grains, rural poverty alleviation, women's development and the targeting of social policies in favour of vulnerable groups.

39. A 1992 quantitative evaluation of the activities of RUTA II has estimated that since 1989 the project has mobilized more than US$ 937 million that will accrue to the region over the next few years. Out of this amount, more than US$ 530 million corresponds to the area of agricultural policy and more than US$ 225 million to investment projects. A large percentage of the latter figure is oriented towards small farmers. Resources allocated directly by bilateral and multilateral agencies to programmes on poverty alleviation were estimated in the amount of US$ 180 million.

40. At the request of the Ministries of Agriculture of the region, UNDP finances a follow-up technical assistance project to assist the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America and Panama (CORECA) in negotiations related to the investment and technical cooperation project

profiles portfolio that was presented at the first meeting of the Central American Governments with cooperating Governments and institutions for the agricultural sector, held in Managua in April 1991.

41. The Special Plan also supported the Trifinio Plan, a three-country initiative involving Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador that generated investment and technical assistance proposals for regional development in border zones. The project, which was executed by UNDP and IICA, collaborated with the Tri-National Technical Secretariat and involved the participation of CABEI.

C. Trade concessions

42. The Special Plan continued to assist the Central American countries in the area of external trade. Regarding customs operations, a UNDP-financed project executed by UNCTAD has assisted the region and individual countries to rationalize and harmonize trade statistics and establish a common information system to facilitate trade flows. The project supported the installation and utilization of an automated system for customs data, known as the ASYCUDA automated system, promoted coordinating mechanisms at the subregional level, gave support to national customs systems and provided training of personnel.

43. In the area of trade negotiations, another project financed by UNDP and executed by UNCTAD has continued providing training and technical assistance to the Central American countries for negotiations at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. During 1993, the project has extended its support to negotiations of the subregion with countries of the American continent, particularly Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and the North American Free Trade Area.

D. Physical infrastructure

44. Apart from the UNDP-financed finalized projects reflected in the last report (A/46/458), during the period under consideration no new activities were undertaken regarding the mobilization of resources for key infrastructure sectors. The Governments presented the investment and technical cooperation projects in telecommunications and road networks prepared in the framework of the Special Plan to different sources of finance and several of these projects have received financial support. In particular, the EEC contributed ECU 13.8 million for the implementation of a regional technical cooperation project in the area of telecommunications, which is being implemented with the participation of the Technical Commission for Telecommunications in Central America (COMTELCA).

E. Investments in the energy sector

45. The second phase of the technical assistance project entitled "Institutional development and regional electrical integration of the Central American isthmus" (DIEICA II), financed by UNDP and executed by the World Bank and ECLAC, finalized its activities. The aim of the project was to contribute to the improvement of the administrative and financial capacity of electricity

companies in Central America. The project has produced a portfolio of 120 technical assistance projects, requiring a total of US$ 12.2 million in external resources. The subregional projects have been included in the priority portfolio approved by the IDB-led Regional Consultative Group for Central America and negotiations are under way to secure the necessary funds for their implementation.

F. Social investments

46. This area is one of the priorities underlined in the PEC strategy, focusing on social development and compensation of the negative impacts of economic adjustment programmes on poverty and vulnerable sectors of the population.

47. A UNDP-financed project assisted the Central American Governments, Panama and Belize in the formulation of documentation on human development presented at the eleventh presidential summit meeting, in Tegucigalpa (December 1991). The presidents signed the Tegucigalpa Commitment establishing human development goals for the region up to the end of the century and endorsed the seven National Action Plans which resulted in major budgetary redistributions of resources in favour of the social sectors. UNDP financed another project to assist the high-level Central American Commission on Human Development established to follow up the presidential decisions. Regional and national investment and technical cooperation project profiles were prepared on health, nutrition, education and employment, and training was provided in the concept of human development and the project cycle. Those efforts involved the joint participation of various agencies of the United Nations system (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ILO-Programa Regional de Empleo para America Latina y el Caribe (PREALC), UNFPA and ECLAC) as well as regional organizations.

48. A UNDP-financed preparatory assistance designed the project "Programme of technical assistance to alleviate poverty in Central America". The project, executed by the World Bank with the participation of WHO/PAHO and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), started operations in July 1993 from its headquarters in Tegucigalpa, on the basis of resources approved by UNDP, the Government of Japan and the Inter-American Development Bank. The project aims at formulating policy as well as strengthening the capacities of national technical units to prepare, execute and evaluate programmes and projects in the areas of primary education, primary health and nutrition; and to develop a portfolio of investment proposals leading to lending operations.

49. In the health sector and as a PEC ad hoc mechanism, subregional projects continue to be implemented within the framework of the WHO/PAHO-led initiative "Health and peace towards development and democracy". Several priority projects that were presented to the donor community at a meeting in Madrid in May 1991 under different subprogrammes sponsored by the ministries of health (sanitary infrastructure, health promotion and disease control, health and environment, and support to special groups) have received financial backing and are ongoing.

50. Within the above-mentioned programme and as a contribution to the improvement of health services in the subregion, a new phase of the UNDP-financed PAHO-executed project "Management of health services" is being implemented. The project has achieved outputs in four major areas: (a) mobilization of internal and external resources; (b) support to national processes of transformation of health systems at national as well as local levels; (c) exchange and mutual support among countries for efficient management of health services; and (d) production of technology including a management information system. The latter has been established and is operational in all countries.

51. Related to the above, UNDP contributes to financing the operations of a regional water and sanitation network for the subregion. It is a World Bank-executed project that involves the participation of UNDP, UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, COSUDE, the United States Agency for International Development, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Comité de Agua Potable para la Región (CAPRE) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Support is given to the establishment of policies and formulation of programmes for achieving efficiency in water and sanitation quality levels and distribution.

52. In the area of education, UNESCO has prepared 18 regional projects to identify common basic educational needs in the countries of the isthmus, increase schooling, reduce illiteracy and improve the quality and efficiency of the educational systems. Donor resources have been mobilized for a total of US$ 5 million to execute projects for strengthening education in rural areas and the elaboration of textbooks for basic education.

53. Lastly, UNDP finances and executes, jointly with other international organizations, other country-level projects aimed at the design and/or implementation of cooperation measures to reduce the social costs of adjustment programmes. Examples of these activities are the social investment funds established in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

G. Promotion of micro-, small- and medium-sized business

54. The UNDP-financed subregional project in support of handicraft production and marketing activities through the Regional Enterprise for the Marketing of Central American Handicraft Products (ERCAC) terminated its activities in 1992. The project established an information system and carried out different training courses. The regular programmes of UNDP at the national level include several projects for the promotion of micro-entrepreneurs with the support of different bilateral donors (the Netherlands, Austria).

H. Food security

55. The UNDP-financed project executed by the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama, entitled "Transfer of technology of composite flour", has continued to achieve important targets during the period under consideration. It implemented pilot projects in each Central American country that produce enriched flour and nutritional biscuits to supplement the nutritional intakes of children from 0 to 3 years of age, school-age children and community health

services. The project seeks to benefit 1.5 million children per day. Various private enterprises and non-governmental organizations are interested in marketing the food products.

I. Tourism

56. Three UNDP-financed projects have terminated their operations in this area. They were executed by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in close collaboration with the national authorities and the Central American Secretariat for Tourism Integration. The projects, in the areas of facilitation of tourism, human resources training and tourist resources in protected areas of the Central American isthmus, were aimed at ensuring sustainable development.

J. Environment

57. The Special Plan supports the activities of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) in the field of environment and sustainable management of natural resources. A UNDP-financed preparatory assistance helped the Commission to prepare the Central American Agenda on Environment and Development which the subregion presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Agenda was drawn up on the basis of a broad process of consultation which was carried out intensively beginning in the last quarter of 1991. In addition, the Inter-American Development Bank decided to co-finance the endeavour so that the strengthening of the CCAD itself could be expanded during 1993 and 1994, allowing the organization to define a general subregional strategy, a corresponding action plan and investment analyses to support the action of sectoral authorities at the national level.

58. In the area of forestry development and management, the Central American Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP-CA) continued to operate as another ad hoc mechanism of the Special Plan regarding mobilization of resources and aid coordination, after a round-table meeting held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in September 1991. UNDP approved a technical cooperation project in the area of forestry development which started operations during the second quarter of 1993. It operates in coordination with CCAD to provide technical assistance to sectoral authorities in policy formulation and promotion of the private sector and contributes to the continuity of activities of the TFAP-CA jointly with other bilateral donors.

59. A UNDP-financed technical cooperation project, executed by the World Bank and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Centre in the area of agro-forestry development, terminated its operations in 1993. It evaluated the socio-economic feasibility of different pilot projects already implemented in the subregion aimed at soil conservation on hillsides and production diversification practices for the benefit of small farmers. Its results have made it possible for the subregion to design a large-scale subregional programme on a sound basis.

60. The subregional Programme on environment and health in the Central American isthmus (MASICA) continued its implementation as a part of the overall initiative on health sponsored by WHO/PAHO. MASICA covers seven projects on health related environmental issues, including exposure to pesticides, water conservation and quality, solid wastes, industrial and vehicular contamination.

K. Central American Bank for Economic Integration

61. A UNDP-financed project assisted an ad hoc committee of governors of the Central American Bank for American Integration (CABEI) and a support group comprising several interested donors in undertaking the institutional reform of the Bank, i.e. redefining its role as a subregional development financial institution and redesigning its organizational structure. The aim was that CABEI increase the share of lending operations directed to the private sector acting as a second tier subregional bank and that its management improve its efficiency. Since CABEI governors approved the main strategies and policies recommended (July 1991) and the management of the bank introduced the necessary reforms, CABEI has improved its operations. Three extraregional share-holders have decided to join the Bank (Mexico, Taiwan, Province of China and Venezuela) and international lending agencies have renewed their operations with the Bank in view of the perceived additionality and complementarity that CABEI currently offers for the resources channelled through it.

VII. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

62. The revised PEC strategy emphasized the capacity-building of national and regional institutions as an important overall objective of the Special Plan. To this end, regional cooperation activities are directed to (a) strengthening government institutions at the national level; (b) strengthening subregional integration and cooperation institutions; (c) upgrading the capacity of Central American Governments and subregional organizations in management and coordination of international cooperation in general, including the implementation of the Special Plan itself.

63. In general, all the projects of the Special Plan include activities or components designed to strengthen public entities which act as national counterparts, including: (a) creation or strengthening of consensus-building capacity; (b) establishment or strengthening of capacity of management of the development process, especially in the area of formulation and implementation of public policies; (c) support of increased outputs and creation of institutional capacity to undertake new activities; (d) improvement of efficiency, information and management systems.

64. In addition to CABEI, the strengthening of subregional integration and/or cooperation organizations have benefited, inter alia, the secretariat of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Central American Monetary Council (CMCA), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP), as described below.

65. Within the framework of the Special Plan, a UNDP-financed project supports SIECA in fulfilling the role assigned to it by the Central American Governments in the areas of economic integration and international trade negotiations as well as its functions as secretariat to the economic cabinets. Additionally, SIECA receives UNDP support as coordinating body for international cooperation, including the intra-Central American decision-making mechanism for the Special Plan. These activities are coordinated with those sponsored by other donors, particularly IDB, in the framework of the Regional Consultative Group for Central America, and USAID/Regional Organization for Central America and Panama (ROCAP).

66. CMCA receives UNDP assistance to operate a database of socio-economic statistics that are used for purposes of comparative macroeconomic analyses and policy-making. CMCA has been able to produce and operate a computerized base of macroeconomic indicators for the fiscal, monetary, external and productive sectors which are currently used in analyses of economic fluctuations and trends as well as in the implementation and evaluation of macroeconomic policies.

67. As for CCAD reference has already been made to the support provided by UNDP and the co-financing provided by IDB, which enables the CCAD secretariat to strengthen its capacity to respond to the objectives set by the Central American Presidents.

68. Finally, in the case of ICAP, this institution was selected to implement training courses for public officials to strengthen public-sector capacity for international cooperation management.

69. Other projects are oriented to the institutional strengthening of Governments, agencies and subregional organizations which participate in the management of the Special Plan. This includes providing financial support to the ministries responsible for PEC and UNDP field offices in the subregion, and training public officials as described above.

70. The Special Plan constitutes a framework which facilitates aid coordination to Central America. In addition to the formal meetings required by the mechanisms of PEC implementation, informal periodic contacts take place with donors in capitals and at field level. A computerized information system (SIPEC) financed by UNDP allows a constant updating of data on international cooperation flows to Central America. Periodic reports have been issued containing detailed data on bilateral and multilateral subregional and country-level projects implemented in Central America.

71. Since its inception, the Special Plan has contributed to peace through development in Central America and has been particularly instrumental in facilitating internal dialogue within the subregion and the international cooperation community. Central America has shown significant progress in the processes of peace and democratization along the path indicated in the Agenda for Peace. Those achievements need to be consolidated. In their Joint Declaration (see A/47/971), signed at Guatemala City on 17 June 1993, the presidents of Central America and Panama emphasized the need for consolidating peace and democracy in the isthmus by ensuring social justice and an authentic human development.

72. The international community should continue supporting the efforts of the Governments and peoples of Central America. Particularly relevant is action geared to easing the transition from humanitarian assistance to development cooperation. The United Nations system should be prepared to continue providing its assistance in the framework of this renewed effort of international cooperation aimed at consolidating peace and democracy with human development in Central America.

Notes

1/ The Dublin Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation Between the European Community and its Member States, the Countries of Central America and Panama, and Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela as Cooperating Countries (also known as the San José VI Conference), Dublin, 9 and 10 April 1990 (see A/46/458, para. 27 and A/44/944).

Table 1. Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

Status of approval/execution of technical cooperation projects financed by UNDP and the cooperating community (cost-sharing, trust funds, MSA)

	Summary	UNDP financing	Other sources administered by UNDP a/	Total
I.	Completed projects b/	3 221 617	-	3 221 617
II.	Projects in execution c/	29 532 026	105 396 516 d/	134 928 542
	Subtotal	32 753 643	105 396 516	138 150 159
III.	Projects in portfolio e/	1 665 700	-	1 665 700
	Total	34 419 343	105 396 516	139 815 859

a/ Parallel financing for a total value of US$ 12,600,000 for technical cooperation projects administered by UNDP must also be entered.

b/ See table 4.

c/ See table 2.

d/ Does not include the Italian Government's contribution for 1994 to the PRODERE project.

e/ See table 3.

Table 2. Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

Regional Programme of Technical Cooperation: Regional projects for Central America by Plan area

(amounts for approved projects)

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (United States dollars) (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (United States dollars) (2)	Total project cost (United States dollars) (1) + (2)
	Programme Area (1): Emergency Programme (11, 12, 13)						
CAM/88/001/ M/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America (PRODERE). Regional coordination subprogramme	0	1310	ELS	832 500	8 537 290 (Italy)	9 369 790
CAM/88/009/ K/16/31	Support to Governments in the formulation of strategies and projects to solve the problem of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in Central America	0	1310	COS	484 400	0 a/	484 400
CAM/89/019/ E/18/31	Support to CIAV for the formulation of a project to reincorporate the Nicaraguan resistance	0	1310	NIC	4 660	0	4 660

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Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/89/023/ H/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): Belize subprogramme	0	1310	BZE	0	3 050 204 (Italy)	3 050 204
CAM/89/024/ H/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): Costa Rica subprogramme	0	1310	COS	0	7 000 000 (Italy)	7 000 000
CAM/89/025/ I/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): El Salvador subprogramme	0	1310	ELS	0	23 000 000 (Italy)	23 000 000
CAM/89/026/ H/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): Guatemala subprogramme	0	1310	GUA	0	23 394 393 (Italy)	23 394 393

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Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/89/027/ H/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): Honduras subprogramme	0	1310	HON	0	5 000 000 (Italy)	5 000 000
CAM/89/028/ G/16/31	Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE): Nicaragua subprogramme	0	1310	NIC	0	23 000 000 (Italy)	23 000 000
CAM/89/031/ E/16/31	PRODERE subprogramme. Regional technical backstopping by ILO, PAHO/WHO and UNHCR (regional initiatives)	0	1310	ELS	626 905	1 194 473 (Italy)	1 821 378
CAM/89/R51/ H/16/31	PRODERE subprogramme. Information, community education and training (EDINFODOC)	0	1310	ELS	0	7 872 186 (Italy)	7 872 186

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/90/003/ F/16/31	Review, expansion and prioritization of the portfolio of projects on uprooted populations, within the framework of the CIREFCA Plan of Action	0	1310	USA	37 577	319 354 b/ (France)	356 931
CAM/90/004/ C/16/31	Project to strengthen the Teosinte, Tremedal, Guancorita, Guarjila, El Copinol, Copapayo Santa Marta, Valle Nuevo, Segundo Montes and Nuevo Gualcho returnee communities	0	1310	ELS	0	630 631 (France)	630 631
CAM/91/003/ I/16/31	Support for the execution and implementation of the CIREFCA Concerted Plan of Action	0	1300	COS	2 021 967	0 c/	2 021 967
Subtotal					3 654 384	102 998 531	106 652 915

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Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
	Programme Area (3): Economic reactivation programme (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)						
CAM/88/007/ K/16/40	Mechanization of customs clearance procedures and facilitation of trade (ASYCUDA)	0	0710	GUA	1 454 660	0	1 454 660
CAM/89/001/ N/16/42	Technical assistance for agricultural development in Central America (RUTA II)	0	0410	COS	2 864 800	0 d/	2 864 800
CAM/89/005/ G/16/31	Development and regional integration. Trifinio Plan	0	0210	GUA	572 200	0 e/	572 200
CAM/89/006/ I/16/37	Modernization and support for handicrafts and micro-enterprise and small-scale industry in the context of Central American integration. ERCAC	0	0520	COS	678 800	0	678 800

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/89/015/ D/16/42	Institutional development and regional electrical integration of the Central American isthmus (DIEICA). Phase II	0	0350	USA	284 340	0	284 340
CAM/90/008/ H/16/40	Support for participation by Central American Governments in the Uruguay Round	0	0710	GUA	959 401	0	959 401
CAM/90/012/ E/16/31	Central American road transport network	0	0630	GUA	179 290	0	179 290
CAM/91/005/ C/16/99	Support for the reactivation of the agricultural sector and for the national food programme of Nicaragua	0	0410	NIC	130 000	0 f/	130 000

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Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (United States dollars) (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
CAM/91/007/ D/16/31	Follow-up to the meeting with the cooperating community for the agricultural sector	0	0410	COS	72 000	0	72 000
CAM/91/009/ E/16/37	Analysis and action proposal for industrial modernization in Central America	0	0500	HON	291 000	0	291 000
CAM/91/011/ A/16/20	Follow-up to the meeting with the cooperating community for the telecommunications sector	0	0660	HON	148 000	0	148 000
CAM/92/005/ B/16/42	Technical assistance for agricultural development in Central America (RUTA II). IDB contribution	0	0400	COS	0	906 000 (IDB)	906 000
Subtotal					7 634 491	906 000	8 540 491

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (4): Social development programme (41, 42, 43, 45, 46)						
CAM/89/022/ I/16/31	Transfer of technology in enriched flours in Central America	0	0510	GUA	240 000	0	240 000
CAM/91/001/ B/16/42	Preparatory assistance. Programme to alleviate poverty in Central America	0	1450	USA	207 300	0	207 300
CAM/91/012/ G/16/31	Support for the formulation of preparatory documents on human development, children and youth. Summit of Central American Presidents, December 1991.	0	1430	HON	491 880	0	491 880
CAM/91/013/ B/16/42	Support for the regional water and sanitation network for Central America	0	0320	GUA	500 000	0 g/	500 000

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/92/006/ D/16/31	Support for the establishment and functioning of the Central American Commission for Human Development	0	1430	HON	1 506 492	0	1 506 492
CAM/92/009/ A/16/42	Programme to alleviate poverty in Central America and Panama	0	1450	HON	500 000	0 h/	500 000
CAM/92/010/ C/16/14	Strengthening and building of managerial capacity of health services in Central America	0	1010	GUA	962 712	0	962 712
CAM/92/011/ B/16/13	Central American programme of education and culture for integration, democracy, peace and development within the framework of PEC	0	1100	COS	139 000	0	139 000

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/93/002/ A/16/35	Public Administration training for mayors, town councillors and leaders	0	1450	NIC	0	161 500 (France)	161 500
Subtotal					4 547 384	161 500	4 708 884
			Programme area (5): Tourism				
CAM/90/009/ D/16/49	Promotion of tourism	0	0530	NIC	197 000	0	197 000
CAM/90/010/ G/16/49	Human resources training and tourism	0	0530	NIC	171 550	0	171 550
CAM/90/011/ E/16/49	Action plan for the conservation and development of the resources of protected areas in the Central American isthmus	0	0530	NIC	155 000	0	155 000
Subtotal					523 550	0	523 550

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (United States dollars) (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (United States dollars) (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
			Programme area (6): Environment				
CAM/90/006/ D/16/12	Regional agro-forestry project	0	0450	ELS	44 780	0	44 780
CAM/90/013/ H/16/31	Environment: Central American agenda and institution-building	0	0210	GUA	519 622	540 540 i/ (IDB)	1 060 162
CAM/91/010/ C/16/42	Socio-economic evaluation of agro-forestry and reafforestation projects	0	0600	COS	222 600	0	222 600
CAM/92/008/ B/16/31	Forestry development for the Central American region	0	0450	COS	316 420	0	316 420
Subtotal					1 103 422	540 540	1 643 962

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (7): Institutional aspects and strengthening of management capacity						
CAM/89/003/ P/16/31	Institutional support for the implementation of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC)	0	0210	USA	4 251 678	0	4 251 678
CAM/89/007/ J/16/31	Development of managerial capacity in the public sector in Central America	0	0230	COS	515 291	0	515 291
CAM/89/008/ L/16/31	Programme for the dissemination of information on PEC (PRODIPEC)	0	1530	COS	412 850	0	412 850
CAM/89/009/ N/16/31	Information system for the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (SIPEC)	0	0210	ELS	642 468	0	642 468

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/89/013/ M/16/31	Institutional support for follow-up of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America by the intraregional integration bodies (SIECA)	0	0210	GUA	297 215	0	297 215
CAM/89/014/ M/16/31	Government bodies responsible for implementing the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America in the management of international cooperation	0	0230	ELS	431 428	0	431 428
CAM/89/L30/ F/28/31	Assistance in the preparation of programmes and projects for the implementation of PEC (Norway Trust Fund)	0	0210	USA	0	789 945 (Norway)	789 945

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
					(United States dollars)		
CAM/91/006/ C/16/99	Central American system of short-term socio-economic indicators	0	0220	COS	650 000	0	650 000
CAM/91/008/ C/16/01	Regional project for strengthening of the public investment process	0	0210	ELS	153 500	0	153 500
CAM/91/014/ D/16/15	Institutional strengthening of the Central American School of Aviation Training (COCESNA), and personnel training	0	0620	HON	430 000	0	430 000
CAM/92/001/ F/16/31	Coordination of implementation of PEC (UNDP)	0	0210	USA	1 615 500	0	1 615 500
CAM/92/003/ E/16/31	Training and support for government bodies responsible for implementing PEC in the management of international cooperation	0	0210	COS	978 600	0	978 600

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Head-quarters Country	UNDP contribution (1)	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA (United States dollars) (2)	Total project cost (1) + (2)
CAM/92/004/ E/16/31	Support to SIECA in the Central American integration process	0	0210	GUA	1 173 740	0	1 173 740
CAM/92/007/ E/16/31	Support for the preparation of technical documents for the twelfth Presidential Summit. Commitments and achievements	0	0200	NIC	162 900	0	162 900
Subtotal					12 015 200	789 945	12 805 145
Total					29 532 026	105 396 516	134 928 542

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

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a/ Parallel financing (UNHCR executed: US$ 700,000 Sweden).

b/ UNHCR also executed contributions of Sweden (US$ 800,000) and Canada (US$ 60,000).

c/ Parallel financing through UNHCR (US$ 1,700,000 EEC and bilateral contributions).

d/ Parallel financing administered by the World Bank (Government of Japan (US$ 4,210,000); IFAD (US$ 800,000) and IICA (US$ 600,000 in kind); and IDB (US$ 906,000) through the project CAM/92/005).

e/ Parallel financing CABEI (US$ 95,000).

f/ Executed in coordination with project CAM/89/001 - RUTA II.

g/ Parallel financing of UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, USAID, GTZ, COSUDE, CAPRE and UNDP in the UNDP/World Bank water and sanitation programme.

h/ Parallel financing (Government of Japan (US$ 3,000,000) through the World Bank trust fund plus an expected US$ 1,500,000 from IDB and US$ 1,000,000 from UNDP subject to disbursements).

i/ IDB co-financing comes to US$ 600,000 including administrative expenses.

Table 3. Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

Regional Programme of Technical Cooperation: Regional projects for Central America by Plan area

(amounts for projects in portfolio)

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Starting date	Duration (months)	Headquarters country	UNDP contribution	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA	Trust cost of projects
							(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (2): Programme of immediate action (21, 22)								
CAM/93/009/16/31	Strengthening of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) within the context of the Central American integration system (SICA)	P	0200	June 1993	6	GUA	50 000	0	50 000
Subtotal							50 000	0	50 000
	Programme area (3): Economic reactivation programme (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)								
CAM/93/004/16/37	Industrial modernization in Central America	P	0500	June 1993	20	USA	1 287 900	0	1 287 900
Subtotal							1 287 900	0	1 287 900
	Programme area (4): Social development programme (41, 42, 43, 45, 46)								
CAM/93/003/16/31	Support for the strengthening of the Central American Court of Justice	P	0230	June 1993	12	COS	200 000	0	200 000
CAM/93/005/16/31	Support for the strengthening of peace with human development in Central America	P	0100	Aug. 1993	3	COS	77 000	0	77 000
Subtotal							277 000	0	277 000

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Starting date	Duration (months)	Headquarters country	UNDP contribution	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA	Trust cost of projects
							(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (7): Institutional aspects and strengthening of management capacity								
CAM/93/008/16/31	Strengthening of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System	P	0200	June 1993	7	GUA	50 000	0	50 000
Subtotal							50 000	0	50 000
Total							1 665 700	0	1 665 700

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Table 4. Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America

Regional Programme of Technical Cooperation: Regional projects for Central America by Plan area

(amounts for completed projects) a/

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Starting date	Duration (months)	Headquarters country	UNDP contribution	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA	Total cost of project
							(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (2): Programme of immediate action (21, 22)								
CAM/88/004/16/40	Support for the reactivation of payment mechanisms for intra-Central American trade	E	0750	Feb. 1989	10	COS	0	0	0
CAM/88/006/H/16/31	Strengthening of the Central American Monetary Stabilization Fund (FOCEM)	E	0750	Feb. 1989	38	COS	41 388	0	41 388
CAM/90/007/G/16/31	The problem of intra-Central American debt	E	0750	Nov. 1990	17	COS	39 889	0 b/	39 899
Subtotal							81 277	0	81 277
	Programme area (3): Economic reactivation programme (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)								
CAM/88/010/B/16/20	Development of telecommunications in Central America	E	0660	Apr. 1989	6	HON	41 500	0 c/	41 500
CAM/89/010/K/16/31	Institutional strengthening of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CNBEI)	E	0750	Feb. 1989	51	HON	140 420	0	140 420
CAM/89/011/E/16/42	Project for institutional development and regional electrical integration (DIEICA) Phase I	E	0350	May 1989	12	USA	121 063	0	121 063
CAM/89/012/G/16/52	Industrial reconversion in Central America. Analysis and identification of technical cooperation needs	E	0510	Oct. 1989	25	GUA	292 108	0	292 108

Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Starting date	Duration (months)	Headquarters country	UNDP contribution	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA	Total cost of project
							(United States dollars)		
CAM/89/018/I/16/31	Strengthening of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) Phase I	E	0750	Nov. 1990	29	HON	487 485	0	487 485
CAM/89/020/E/16/20	Review of the portfolio of Central American telecommunications projects and preparation of technical documentation for sectoral meeting with cooperating community	E	0660	May 1990	21	HON	195 200	0	195 200
CAM/90/002/H/16/31	Review of the portfolio of agricultural projects in Central America	E	0400	June 1990	34	COS	770 407	0	770 407
Subtotal							2 048 183	0	2 048 183
	Programme area (4): Social development programme (41, 42, 43, 45, 46)								
CAM/89/017/D/16/42	Nutrition initiative for Central America	E	1020	Mar. 1990	26	GUA	46 806	0 d/	46 806
CAM/90/005/H/16/14	Subregional project for the development of managerial capacity in health services (Phase II, stage 1)	E	1010	Oct. 1990	31	GUA	587 000	0 e/	587 000
Subtotal							633 806	0	633 806
	Programme area (5): Tourism								
CAM/89/004/C/16/49	Tourism development in the Central American isthmus	E	0530	May 1989	27	NIC	36 556	0	36 556
Subtotal							36 556	0	36 556

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Symbol	Project title	Status	Sector	Starting date	Duration (months)	Headquarters country	UNDP contribution	Cost-sharing trust funds or MSA	Total cost of project
							(United States dollars)		
	Programme area (7): Institutional aspects and strengthening of management capacity								
CAM/88/002/I/16/31	Support to the coordination secretariat of the meeting of Central American Vice-Presidents	E	0210	Sep. 1988	46	GUA	27 026	0	27 026
CAM/88/005/G/16/52	Support to the mechanisms for the implementation of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (ECLAC)	E	0210	Feb. 1989	39	MEX	394 769	0	394 769
Subtotal							421 795	0	421 795
Total							3 221 617	0	3 221 617

a/ According to UNDP definition, involves financial closing.

b/ Parallel financing (Central American Monetary Council (US$ 22 million)).

c/ Parallel financing (UNDP/PDF (US$ 35,000)).

d/ Parallel financing (PAHO/WHO (US$ 95,000)).

e/ Parallel financing (PAHO/WHO (US$ 495,000)).

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Agenda item 105

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/165 of 18 December 1992. It summarizes developments that have taken place since the adoption of the resolution and presents the conclusions of an analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in those countries most affected, including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities, including those of regional and other organizations, and the principle of comparative advantage, as requested in resolution 47/165. In addition, the report presents recommendations for further action to stimulate and coordinate assistance to the regions in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which continue to suffer from the consequences of Chernobyl.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT

A. The accident and the initial response

2. On 26 April 1986, a powerful explosion occurred in Unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the then Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, resulting in the largest release of radioactive materials into the atmosphere ever recorded. Even after over seven years, the full health, social and environmental manifestations, both immediate and long-term, remain unclear and unpredictable. The manner and content of the initial response from the Soviet authorities left a legacy of scepticism as to the facts, and a loss of confidence among the affected populations.

3. Four years after the accident, the Soviet Union brought its appeal for assistance before the United Nations. This was considered at the first regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council, resulting in the adoption of Council resolution 1990/50. Pursuant to a request in that resolution, the Secretary-General sent a United Nations mission to the affected areas, headed by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The outcome of that mission and the results of a study by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that had been initiated earlier in the year were included in the Secretary-General's report to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/45/643).

4. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990, the Secretary-General appointed a United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, and a United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl was established. The Coordinator undertook a series of missions to the affected areas, which culminated in the drafting of a Joint Plan of Action. This Plan of Action served as the principal document at a Pledging Conference held in New York in September 1991. Shortly after that a United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl was established to receive contributions of Member States. In its resolution 46/150 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue efforts aimed at addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

5. The Plan of Action presented at the Pledging Conference covered 131 projects estimated at a total cost of about $646.5 million. These included projects for obvious emergency action, as well as broader proposals on the economic development of areas to which large population groups were likely to be resettled. The response was extremely modest: only $970,807 was received by the Chernobyl Trust Fund (see A/47/322/Add.1 and 2-E/1992/102/Add.1 and 2).

B. The project-oriented approach

6. In order to address the consequences of the disaster, the broad-ranging nature of the problem, which was compounded by the difficult economic situation in the affected States and the scarcity of available resources that resulted from the weak response to the Pledging Conference, warranted a more realistic and better defined approach based on solid facts and sober assessments. It was considered necessary (a) to determine the priorities and the most urgent needs, (b) to take stock of ongoing programmes, (c) to determine the time-frames for action, (d) to identify appropriate implementing entities, and (e) to identify potential funding sources.

7. At a meeting at Kiev in November 1992, agreement was reached with representatives of the three Governments on the priority areas for action. They were identified as:

(a) Health: creation of medical centres for examination and treatment of children and adults, and equipping of medical institutions in the contaminated zone;

(b) Economic rehabilitation: formulation of plans, definition of special economic conditions and advantages for foreign investors;

(c) Socio-psychological rehabilitation: creation of centres for children and teenagers;

(d) Food and agriculture: production of uncontaminated food products and products containing special additives.

8. This was the first step towards a more focused approach to this problem, distinguishing the specific needs of the affected areas.

9. In March 1993 the post of United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl was conferred upon the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The Coordinator convened a meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl at Geneva on 16 April 1993, enabling the Task Force members to provide the fullest information on the activities of their respective agencies for the purposes of an analytical review, and to define the new strategy in terms of these activities and their future intentions. Detailed information on all current projects of each agency was collated.

10. In keeping with the second objective of the meeting, the agencies were requested to propose specific projects within the four priorities identified, for which funding could be obtained either from the agencies' regular budgets or from possible extrabudgetary sources. These were to be clearly defined as short-term, medium-term and long-term initiatives.

11. As a result of this meeting the new approach was consolidated and launched. Each of the Task Force members has subsequently submitted to the Coordinator priority projects defined in clear-cut time-frames.

12. In May 1993 the Coordinator undertook a mission to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. He visited the regions affected by the disaster, including the Chernobyl reactor site itself and the exclusion zone around it. On 26 May he took part in a coordinating meeting at Minsk with the Ministers of the affected States responsible for Chernobyl relief, preceded by thorough bilateral discussions in the three capitals. This new high-level coordinating mechanism will meet on a regular basis, once or twice a year, to maintain a direct ministerial-level channel for the exchange of information on the efforts of the United Nations system on Chernobyl, to provide for more precise coordination of international efforts with the activities of national agencies, and to identify ways of promoting and strengthening efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

13. The Minsk meeting, emphasizing the importance of openness and transparency in issues of nuclear safety and nuclear waste management, stressed the need to invigorate efforts aimed at strengthening international cooperation on Chernobyl. The new project-oriented approach, agreed to at the meeting, formed the basis for this renewed effort.

14. In this context, closer cooperation and a more effective division of labour were seen as essential, not only between the United Nations and the affected States, but also among the United Nations system and the European Community, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations, industry, etc. The United Nations would act as a catalyst in this effort and assist in bringing the various parties together.

15. There was general agreement at the meeting at Minsk, in the light of past experience, on the need for a flexible funding strategy. Financing would be sought on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis to complement United Nations system resources. Information on activities of the United Nations system, submitted to the Governments of the affected States, was confirmed by the participants as the basis for short-term priority action by the United Nations system in addressing the consequences of the accident. A document detailing projects proposed by the Task Force Members for future implementation was also presented at Minsk.

16. As a result of the meeting, a communiqué was signed by the three Ministers and the United Nations Coordinator in which they agreed:

(a) To undertake additional efforts to implement priority projects, submitted to the United Nations Coordinator, which correspond to the needs of the population of the three States and represent a solid basis for future action in the medium- and long-term;

(b) To identify possible sources of funding on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis for the implementation of Chernobyl projects;

(c) To create a quadripartite committee (with the participation of the Ministers of the three States responsible for Chernobyl relief and of the United Nations Coordinator) for coordination of activities aimed at addressing the consequences of the Chernobyl accident;

(d) To encourage the incorporation of the Chernobyl problem into the regular activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in view of the long-term nature of the consequences of the catastrophe;

(e) To request the Director-General of WHO to review the possibility of incorporating into that organization's programme of activities a project on the study and treatment of the health of the persons who took part in the immediate efforts at liquidating the results of the accident.

17. In May 1993, the Management Committee of the WHO International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident (IPHECA), which includes the Ministers of Health of the affected States, met at Geneva to review the status of implementation of the Programme. At this meeting it was noted that severe financial constraints had enabled the implementation of only five of the many important health projects. It was also feared that their abrupt discontinuation, should new resources not be forthcoming, would be very distressful to the affected populations covered by IPHECA in the selected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

18. As part of an initiative to bring about a higher degree of cooperation with regional and other organizations involved in the issue, the United Nations Coordinator held meetings with representatives of the European Community in June 1993. During these meetings, support was expressed for the new approach taken by the United Nations system. Working-level meetings were held as a follow-up with the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels in July, where a substantial amount of detailed information on projects being undertaken by the respective organizations was exchanged. Arrangements were made to maintain and further this cooperation.

19. As requested by the Assembly in its resolution 47/165, the United Nations Coordinator presented an oral report to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 1993. In the discussion that followed, the focused and project-specific approach of the United Nations system to addressing the consequences of Chernobyl received positive evaluation. In particular, the catalytic role of the United Nations in this issue and the movement towards better coordination and a more effective division of labour, which form an integral part of this approach, were highlighted as essential and timely.

20. In its decision 1993/232, the Council took note of the oral report made on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and of the proposals for future action on this issue contained therein, and decided to keep the matter under review.

21. On 23 July 1993 the Coordinator convened at Geneva a meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl with the participation of the representatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The main purpose of the meeting was to determine ways of approaching potential donors for the financing of specific projects. In order to do that,

it was necessary to prepare thoroughly the funding requirements and make them as precise and as accurately costed as possible.

22. To this end, the first draft of a funding request for presentation to donors was submitted to members of the Task Force for their review and comments. In reviewing the document, it was stressed that, to the extent possible, preference was to be given to projects that promised tangible results for the affected population, as opposed to purely research projects.

23. During the discussion with the representatives of the three affected States, issues related to better coordination at the recipient-country level and a general improvement of coordination and cooperation were discussed.

24. Representatives of the three affected States welcomed the concept of an "expanded" Task Force meeting and proposed that the next meeting of the Task Force be held at the time of the discussion of this item in the General Assembly, with the participation of the representatives of the affected States and of the donor countries and organizations.

III. RESULTS OF THE ANALYTICAL REVIEW

25. An analytical review was carried out on the basis of information on bilateral activities received from Member States, information on the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system and members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl, information on multilateral and bilateral activities of the European Community, information on activities of the Commission of the European Communities and preliminary information from the Commission on activities of the Group of 24 countries. A database on research and assistance related to the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident, compiled by IAEA, has provided valuable information on international activities for the purposes of the analytical review.

26. In order to maximize the objectivity of the analytical review it was based strictly upon the information received from the above sources, and it focused on projects that were either completed or under way. This information was analysed according to a number of specific parameters: the classification of projects into those involving the provision of assistance and those primarily relating to research, and within these categories, their distinction by the area of activity. The financial expenditures, the origin of these resources and the type of funding arrangement for the projects were further examined. Where possible the mechanisms through which projects operated, administratively and in the field, were identified and the distribution of projects by country surveyed. Finally, areas of overlap and collaboration were reviewed.

A. Assistance activity

27. Assistance activities of the United Nations system focus primarily on the health of the affected populations (see paras. 48-55, 71 and 76), their socio-psychological rehabilitation (see paras. 67 and 75), the social and economic rehabilitation of territories, in particular those to which populations have been resettled from contaminated areas (see paras. 68, 69, 72 and 74), and radiation protection (see paras. 58-60, 62, 66 and 71). Activities are also

being undertaken, although to a lesser extent, to address the agricultural and environmental consequences of the disaster (see paras. 56, 57, 66 and 73). Numerous assistance projects are being undertaken in the field of nuclear safety (see para. 65), although it should be noted that, within the United Nations system, they have not generally been viewed in the context of the direct consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

28. Multilateral assistance activities of the European Community (Commission of the European Communities - Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS), the group of seven major industrialized countries, EBRD), specifically related to the Chernobyl accident, focus primarily on nuclear safety at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant itself (see paras. 78, 80, 86 and 87) and on the design and manufacture of techniques and equipment for the decontamination of affected areas, including agricultural land (see para. 77).

29. Assistance provided on a bilateral basis is largely covered within the projects of the group of 24 countries. The main focus of activity was nuclear safety at Chernobyl and other nuclear power plants (see paras. 88, 89, 91, 93, 94, 97, 99 and 100), decontamination of agricultural land (see paras. 88, 90, 92, 95 and 99), the monitoring and minimizing of radioactive contamination in foodstuffs (see paras. 95 and 99), and the measurement of the radiation exposure of the population (see paras. 88, 91, 92 and 98). Assistance in the field of health is being provided, although to a lesser degree (see paras. 88, 90 and 94), and certain individual States have provided additional assistance in kind.

B. Research activity

30. Study and research into the consequences of the Chernobyl accident being undertaken by the United Nations system focus primarily on the health effects on the exposed populations (see paras. 48-53, 55, 61 and 63) and on the impact of the disaster on the environment (see paras. 56, 59, 62, 66, 70, 72 and 73). As an additional note, the International Chernobyl Project, undertaken at the request of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, studied and evaluated the steps taken to resettle and safeguard the health of populations following the accident (see para. 56).

31. Multilateral research activities of the European Community focus on the effects of the Chernobyl disaster on food, agriculture and the environment (see paras. 82-84), including research into decontamination techniques (see paras. 82 and 83). Studies also focus on certain health effects of the accident (see paras. 83 and 84). More general studies relate to the prediction of radiation effects after a nuclear accident and measures that should be taken to address them (see para. 84).

32. Numerous research activities are being undertaken by States through several scientific and academic institutions on an independent basis and bilaterally. These are principally concerned with the measurement of the radiation exposure of the populations and the contamination of territories (see paras. 91, 92 and 98). Many such institutions are also participating in projects of the United Nations system and the European Community.

C. Distribution by country

33. The table below shows an approximate distribution by country of Chernobyl-related assistance and research projects. It should be noted that many of these projects cover all three affected States.

Organization	Number of assistance projects covering		
	Belarus	Russian Federation	Ukraine
United Nations system	24	17	18
European Community multilateral (TACIS)	-	-	3
Bilateral and group of 24 countries	8	10	20

Organization	Number of research/study projects covering		
	Belarus	Russian Federation	Ukraine
United Nations system	13	9	10
European Community multilateral (TACIS)	12	12	16
Bilateral and group of 24 countries	1	1	3

D. Resources and funding arrangements

34. The overall expenditure to date on assistance by the United Nations system to the affected States, within the areas specified above, is approximately $19.7 million, which was principally mobilized from extrabudgetary sources. Approximately $17.6 million (89 per cent) of this sum was expended on health projects and about $1 million (5 per cent) on projects for socio-psychological rehabilitation. With some exceptions, few funding arrangements or cost-sharing agreements exist with the recipient States. Expenses for the conducting of research projects were largely covered by the agencies' regular budgets, with services and expertise frequently provided on a voluntary basis.

35. The overall expenditure to date on multilateral assistance related to Chernobyl by the European Community is approximately $0.7 million, allocated from the TACIS budget. It was expended on two projects relating to nuclear safety and decontamination (a further $7.2 million are earmarked for work on the decommissioning of the Chernobyl Unit 4). This sum does not include in kind assistance. The total expended to date by the European Community on multilateral research activities is approximately $10 million. Funding for these research projects was provided on a cost-shared basis with the recipient States. Other multilateral activities include $0.6 million earmarked by EBRD for assistance in containment of the Chernobyl Unit 4.

36. In many cases assistance provided by States on a bilateral basis covers a wider range of activities than is strictly relevant to the Chernobyl accident and its consequences, and is often over a broader geographical area. Such assistance includes nuclear safety projects covering other nuclear power plants in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe, rehabilitative holidays for children affected by the disaster and general food aid to the three States. More than $350 million has been expended or committed by States (see chap. IV, sect. C).

37. The total expended to date on bilateral assistance projects directly related to Chernobyl is about $28 million, of which approximately $18.15 million (65 per cent) was expended on projects relating to nuclear safety (although some of these projects still cover other nuclear power plants, in addition to Chernobyl itself), approximately $0.67 million (2 per cent) on decontamination projects, and about $9.19 million (33 per cent) on activities to measure the radiation exposure of populations and the radioactive contamination of foodstuffs. Expenditure on assistance in kind is not included, as the relevant quantities could not be distinguished on the basis of the information received. An indication of expenditure on bilateral research projects to date cannot be given, as insufficient information was received in this regard. Data on funding arrangements was also not provided.

E. Secretariat arrangements and operational mechanisms

38. The structure through which the United Nations system addresses the issue consists of the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, appointed in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/190, and his office. The various assistance and research projects are prepared and implemented by the organizations of the United Nations system - the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ECE, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and IAEA - members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl.

39. The Coordinator maintains regular contact with these agencies and chairs meetings of the Task Force, which are held approximately three times a year. The Coordinator is a member of the coordinating committee, together with the Ministers of the three affected States responsible for Chernobyl relief, established in May 1993. Documentation for its meetings and those of the Inter-Agency Task Force is prepared by the office of the Coordinator.

40. The integrated United Nations/UNDP offices in Kiev and Minsk have responsibilities related to Chernobyl, as will the office shortly to be opened in Moscow, and they participate in coordination with the national authorities and institutions. The office in Kiev is at present establishing a central interactive database on Chernobyl to maintain the availability of up-to-date information and enhance cooperation at the operational level. UNESCO has also established an office in Kiev to coordinate activities related to the socio-psychological rehabilitation centres and to select and train their future personnel.

41. The activities of the Commission of the European Communities on Chernobyl are principally coordinated by and implemented through three Directorates: (a) Directorate of G24 Nuclear Safety, Industry and the Environment, Civil Protection, and (b) Directorate of Nuclear Safety, both within Directorate-General XI (Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection); and (c) Directorate of Research and Technical Development, within Directorate-General XII (Science, Research and Development). The heads of these Directorates are part of a coordinating committee, together with the Ministers of the three affected States responsible for Chernobyl relief. At the operational level, projects are also implemented by the participating institutions of the Member States, and a Commission secretariat operates within the "exclusion zone", with liaison offices based in Kiev, Minsk and Moscow.

42. The programme of the group of seven major industrialized countries for the safety of nuclear power plants in central-eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, only marginally related to Chernobyl, falls within a specific institutional framework, with a board of directors, a secretariat and a plenary working group.

F. Areas of collaboration

43. Areas of collaboration include: (a) health, in which WHO, its principal sponsors in this regard (Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and other organizations and institutions involved in health projects collaborate to varying degrees under IPHECA; (b) nuclear safety, in which the United Nations system (IAEA) and certain countries of the group of 24 countries (Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland) collaborate in the review of the safety of RBMK nuclear power plants in the Russian Federation and Ukraine; and (c) agricultural countermeasures to reduce the contamination of milk and meat, which have been undertaken by the United Nations system (FAO/IAEA Joint Division) and Norway.

44. Through the Chernobyl Centre for International Research, a forum is provided for collaboration on studies relating to decontamination and waste treatment (Republic of Korea and IAEA), the assessment and analysis of the radiation consequences and evaluation of the assessment methods (Japan and IAEA), and other research projects of the Commission of the European Communities. IAEA is acting as secretariat of an Inter-Agency Committee preparing new Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection, jointly sponsored by WHO, FAO, ILO, IAEA, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (NEA (OECD)) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), which aim at providing international standards for intervention after a nuclear accident. In the fields of economic and socio-psychological rehabilitation, Germany has helped support a project of ILO and of UNESCO/UNICEF. Finally, UNESCO provided urgently needed supplies to Belarus and Ukraine through cooperation with the European Community, the Canadian Government and a German non-governmental organization.

G. Areas of overlap

45. In several fields of activity, areas are apparent in which closer collaboration would enhance the effectiveness of assistance and the validity of

research. In some cases there are clear examples of overlap. In the field of health the United Nations system and the Commission of the European Communities are undertaking parallel projects to study thyroid disorders resulting from the Chernobyl accident (see paras. 83 (b) and (c) and 84 (d)), epidemiological registries (see para. 83 (b)), evacuees and liquidators (see para. 83 (b)), and retrospective dosimetry (see para. 83 (e)). These health issues are also covered by WHO under IPHECA, and although the Commission has participated in meetings and presentations of IPHECA, there appear to be few arrangements for collaboration on these studies. Such exchanges would be particularly appropriate for the application of Standardized Protocols, developed within the framework of IPHECA, which provide for common and consistent procedures in the conducting of medical comparisons and studies.

46. A number of projects concerning the radiation exposure of populations and the measurement and evaluation of radioactivity levels in different areas have been carried out both by agencies of the United Nations system (IAEA, WHO and ECE) and bilaterally (Germany, Italy and Switzerland). It is not certain that their results have been fully corroborated. The purpose of many of these studies is to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, and their results and concluding recommendations are often presented to the authorities of regions that have been studied and to their inhabitants. It is therefore vital that the findings of these different studies be consolidated and that the subsequent recommendations be consistent. Projects to study the various effects of radioactive contamination on the environment are being undertaken by the United Nations system (IAEA, WMO, ECE and UNESCO), bilaterally, and by the Commission (see paras. 82 (b), (c) and (e) and 83 (d)).

47. Finally, a parallel is apparent between the coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations system and the Commission through the existence of two separate committees with the participation of the Ministers of the affected States responsible for Chernobyl relief. There has, to date, been no exchange between these two committees.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

A. Activities of the United Nations system

World Health Organization

48. WHO established IPHECA in May 1991, supported almost entirely from a generous donation of the Government of Japan. At present, IPHECA is conducting six comprehensive projects, covering all three affected States.

49. The thyroid project deals with the detection, characterization and treatment of selected thyroid diseases in children living in the strictly controlled areas (where levels of radiocaesium contamination exceed 15 Ci/km², or 550 kBq/m²). Diseases of concern are thyroid cancer, benign tumours, autoimmune thyroiditis and hypothyroidism. The total number of children to be screened in all three States is about 75,000. An important component of this project is the strengthening of the local capability for the early detection of thyroid cancer and other thyroid diseases.

50. The haematology project is aimed at the detection and treatment of haemoblastoses, i.e. leukaemia and related diseases, in a total population of 270,000 living in the strictly controlled zones.

51. The brain damage in utero project deals with identification of psychological, psychoneurological and psychiatric problems of children exposed to radiation in utero, i.e. born within one year of the accident and who either live in the strictly controlled areas of all three States or were born to mothers evacuated from the 30 km exclusion zone. This constitutes up to 4,500 children. It will be followed by advanced examination of cases detected. As part of this project, a protocol was developed by experts trained abroad for the screening of mental abnormalities.

52. The epidemiological registry project aims at supporting a system for collection, processing, storage and exchange of medical and dosimetric data at the computer-assisted registries (both state and local) in all three States on the health impact of the Chernobyl accident, covering the general population, persons evacuated and recovery workers.

53. The goal of the oral health project, initiated in 1992, is to improve diagnostic and curative services in oral health in contaminated regions. Samples of tooth enamel are used for individual dosimetry by electron spin resonance (ESR) spectrometry.

54. General support activities include physical and biological dosimetry, communication, scientific information and general diagnostic services. Equipment provided by WHO as part of this project includes portable gamma spectrometers for environmental radiation measurements, thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) systems for prospective individual dosimetry, electron spin resonance (ESR) spectrometers for retrospective dosimetry, and a cytoscan facility for the analysis of stable chromosome aberrations in persons with the diseases specified in the above projects. An international conference facility has also been set up in Obninsk (Russian Federation) with a televideo-communication system.

55. An important component of WHO activities under IPHECA is the development and adoption of standardized protocols (for the thyroid, haematology, brain damage in utero and epidemiological registry projects), which allow comparisons, clinical and epidemiological studies to be carried out according to procedures common to all three affected States. A project to address the health of Chernobyl recovery workers (liquidators) has been prepared and will be initiated upon the availability of funding.

International Atomic Energy Agency

56. IAEA itself, as well as jointly with other agencies, is undertaking a number of projects in the affected areas, including several under a subprogramme on the "Radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident", within the framework of the IAEA 1993/94 programme. The purpose of the project on environmental radiation monitoring stations, initiated with resources from the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl, is to update the existing hardware and to monitor radiation contamination in the environment.

57. A project on caesium binders, using low-cost techniques to reduce the radioactive contamination of milk and meats in grazing animals, is being implemented by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, with additional support from the IAEA Division of Nuclear Safety. Field trials, training sessions and technology transfer were successfully completed in 1990-1992. Jointly with FAO, IAEA is implementing guidelines for agricultural countermeasures in the event of accidental releases of radioactive materials.

58. IAEA acts as secretariat of the Inter-Agency Committee, jointly sponsored by FAO, IAEA, ILO, NEA (OECD), PAHO and WHO, which is preparing new basic safety standards for radiation protection. This will provide international standards for intervention after a nuclear accident.

59. A coordinated research programme on "hot" particles has been conducted to address questions specifically related to the hazards of hot beta emitting particles.

60. IAEA is participating in two major research projects at the Chernobyl Centre for International Research, which cover decontamination and waste treatment (supported by a donation of the Government of the Republic of Korea) and the assessment and analysis of radiation consequences and evolution of the assessment methods (funds provided by the Government of Japan).

61. A project on the diagnostic analysis of the population through erythrocyte study is developing speckle-pattern tomography methods for the investigation of erythrocyte deformation and blood flow, and is looking to establish centres for blood diagnostic analysis.

62. Projects are being initiated, through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Budget, to advise on long-term measures for radiation monitoring and protection, to improve radiation spectroscopy measurement facilities, to review radiation protection conditions for the population, to develop new technology for the disposal of radioactive contaminated wood, and to establish in Ukraine a national centre of the International Nuclear Information System.

63. A project to undertake retrospective dosimetry of Chernobyl decontamination workers, evacuees and other high risk groups, including children, is under preparation and will be implemented in cooperation with WHO, when resources are available.

64. IAEA has recently set up a database on research and assistance related to the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident. This pursues in part a recommendation of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group to assemble all the relevant information on all aspects of the accident and its effects and to make it available to the nuclear community and general public.

65. IAEA is undertaking numerous projects in the field of nuclear safety, both individually and in collaboration with the Commission of the European Communities and other organizations. These include a comprehensive safety review of RBMK nuclear power plants, the assessment of "safety significant events", and the assessment and promotion of a "safety culture" in relevant organizations. However, these activities are regarded as distinct from those detailed above, which are of direct relevance to Chernobyl.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

66. FAO has participated in the IAEA-led International Chernobyl Project and has undertaken a number of activities within its field of competence. Jointly with IAEA, FAO is preparing guidelines for agricultural countermeasures in the event of accidental releases of radioactive substances. The Joint Codex Alimentarius Commission with WHO adopted "Guidelines for Radionuclides in Food following Accidental Nuclear Contamination for Use in International Trade". The project entitled "Prussian Blue" is being implemented in cooperation with IAEA to reduce Caesium-137 contamination in the milk and meat of grazing animals. FAO participates in two standing Inter-Agency Committees dealing with Chernobyl issues: the ECE/FAO/ILO Committee on Forestry; and the Committee that is preparing new basic safety standards for radiation protection (also incorporating the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission).

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

67. Since January 1991, UNESCO has launched more than 20 projects within the framework of its Chernobyl programme. Among the most significant are the construction in the affected States of nine Socio-Psychological Rehabilitation Centres for children and families affected by the accident and the training of their future personnel. Four of these Centres are part of a collaborative project with UNICEF. The Centres will be completed and operational before the end of 1993.

68. An integrated pilot project for the establishment of an economic and social development area is under way (in collaboration with all United Nations agencies concerned) and involves the relocation of 30,000 people, primarily victims of the Chernobyl accident, to a model "clean" environment, providing the necessary jobs, housing and community facilities for sustainable economic, social and environmental development. The Director-General of UNESCO officially launched the project with the signing of an agreement with the Russian Federation in June 1993.

69. Within the UNESCO Chernobyl Programme's activities in the field of socio-economic rehabilitation, a factory for the production of economically and culturally adapted prefabricated housing has been completed in Belarus. Prototypes of houses are presently being assembled and full-scale production will begin within 60 days from the time funding is made available. The project is to be expanded to the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

70. A project on the impact of nuclear power plants on hydrology was launched by UNESCO in 1991 in collaboration with the Commission of the European Communities, UNEP and IAEA.

71. UNESCO has also provided urgently needed supplies to schools and orphanages in both Belarus and Ukraine, as well as training and equipment to the Radiation Medicine Research Clinic in Minsk and the Kiev Radiation Protection Clinic.

International Labour Organisation

72. ILO successfully completed in 1992 the preparatory phase of a project of training for self-employment and income-generation, applying the Training for Rural Gainful Activities-based methodology, for rural districts with people

displaced by the Chernobyl accident, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour of Belarus. The project became operational in the Dribinsk region of Belarus (recipient of 25,000 resettlers from affected territories), and is intended for wider implementation. ILO also participates in the Committee on Forestry and the Committee preparing new basic safety standards for radiation protection.

Economic Commission for Europe

73. ECE has been active in Chernobyl relief efforts since its first mission to the affected areas in mid-1990. At the request of the affected States it has conducted a number of workshops and other activities on resettlement of populations as a result of the Chernobyl accident, agro-technical methods to improve soils contaminated by radionuclides, the economic and social aspects of the consequences of radioactive contamination of agriculture, the collection and dissemination of technical information on soil decontamination, etc. It also participates in the Committee on Forestry, studying the radioactive contamination of forest ecosystems resulting from the Chernobyl accident.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

74. Habitat has fielded a project of assistance to the Town Planning Institute of Belarus for the revision of the territorial development plan of the Republic, introducing advanced technologies and methods. A project of assistance to the Ministry of Investment and Building of Ukraine for the formulation of an environmentally sound territorial plan for the resettlement of the population affected by the Chernobyl accident is soon to be initiated.

United Nations Children's Fund

75. UNICEF was authorized by its Executive Board in June 1992 to continue to provide support for children and mothers who were affected by the Chernobyl accident. As part of these activities, UNICEF is undertaking a joint collaborative project with UNESCO to establish four community centres for the rehabilitation of affected children and families. UNICEF assistance covers the provision of medical, educational and recreational material and the training of psycho-social personnel.

76. UNICEF has also provided iodized oil capsules and ultrasound equipment for the treatment of iodine deficiency disorders among children and, as part of its "Russian Winter Campaign" in December 1991, provided essential drugs and medical equipment to 11 hospitals in the Russian Federation, including areas affected by the Chernobyl accident.

B. Activities of the European Community

77. The European Community has undertaken multilateral assistance projects related to the Chernobyl disaster as part of TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States). Since the completion in 1991 of a study on treatment for contaminated wood, two principal projects have been undertaken. The activities of the project on radiation-proof facilities for decontamination at Chernobyl were directed towards the development, manufacture and testing of (a) a moveable installation for the combustion of organic radioactive waste resulting from decontamination measures, (b) a mobile decontamination

installation for vehicles and equipment, (c) a moveable installation for the cement compaction of radioactive waste arising from demolition and combustion, (d) automatic controls in farming equipment for unmanned soil tilling in order to reduce the exposure of agricultural workers to radiation in regions of low-level contamination, and (e) small-scale equipment for decontaminating gardens, fallow ground etc., where the use of large equipment is unfeasible.

78. The second project covered fire protection training at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It included the instruction of personnel in assembly and maintenance, inspection and acceptance, control, maintenance and repair, and quality safeguarding of the passive fire protection systems, the inculcation of higher work standards in nuclear power plant personnel, the drawing up of a standard training manual in Russian for fire protection systems, and the protection of specific areas facing imminent fire risk.

79. A total of ECU 0.6 million has been expended on these two projects. Five more assistance projects are under preparation in the field of nuclear safety, covering a review of European Community legislation, regulations and policies on decommissioning; preparation for the decommissioning of Chernobyl Units 1, 2 and 3; the management (and possibly disposal) of waste in the dumps around the Chernobyl site; training for decommissioning; and participation in Unit 4 follow-up activity. A further ECU 6 million has been committed for these projects.

80. In the area of nuclear safety assistance not related to the Chernobyl accident, ECU 80 million has been expended through TACIS in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Additional general technical assistance amounting to ECU 14.6 million has been provided to Belarus and ECU 48.3 million to Ukraine.

81. Under an agreement between the Commonwealth of Independent States (Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine) and the Commission of the European Communities for international collaboration on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, concluded on 23 June 1992, 10 experimental collaboration projects and 6 joint study projects are being implemented in the three affected States. Institutions from Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Ukraine take part in the research activities.

82. The experimental collaboration projects deal with (a) the contamination of urban and rural surfaces by re-suspended material, (b) transfer of radionuclides through the terrestrial environment to agricultural products and livestock, including the evaluation of agro-chemical practices, (c) modelling and studying the mechanisms of transfer of radioactive material from terrestrial ecosystems to and in water bodies, (d) evaluation and development of decontamination strategies for a range of environmental situations, and evaluation of their efficacy and other impacts, and (e) determination of the behaviour of radionuclides in natural and semi-natural ecosystems (forest litter, understorey vegetation, meadow vegetation and wild animals). The results achieved during the first year of these five projects are at present under publication.

83. The other five projects focus on (a) quantification of exposure of irradiated persons, through an analysis of stable chromosomal damage in lymphocytes, (b) cancer registries, population registries, the follow-up of

liquidators and documentation on thyroid cancer in children, as a starting-point for further studies on epidemiology, (c) molecular characterization of childhood thyroid cancers observed in the surroundings of Chernobyl, (d) transfer of radionuclides to livestock and agricultural products and assessment of the effectiveness of various agricultural measures to reduce the contamination of milk and meat products, and (e) physical methods of retrospective dosimetry and calculational methods of dose reconstruction and exposure assessment.

84. The six joint study projects deal with (a) the development of computerized systems for predicting the radiological impact of accidents to aid off-site emergencies, (b) development of a more coherent and rational basis for establishing intervention levels in the event of a nuclear accident, (c) improvement of diagnosis and treatment of the effects of high dose accidental irradiation based on the evaluation of patients treated after the Chernobyl accident, (d) development of optimal treatment and preventive measures for childhood thyroid cancer, (e) analysis of potential pathways of exposure for people continuing to live and work in the contaminated regions, and (f) the establishment of an integrated computerized database of validated data for those radiological and environmental quantities of interest.

85. These projects are jointly financed by the European Community and the three affected States. The European Community share totals ECU 4.5 million since 1991 on the projects listed in paragraph 82, ECU 1.6 million on the projects listed in paragraph 83, and ECU 2.2 million on the joint study projects.

86. Multilateral activities of the European Community also include the programme of the group of seven major industrialized countries for the safety of the nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union. Its scope is very wide, involving about $700 million, but is only marginally related to Chernobyl. The Community has established two consortia: one of nuclear power producers (engineering group) who will develop a master plan, and the other of the safety authorities of the Community and other participating European States with nuclear power plants. Activities include scientific symposia, surveys, field studies in the area of waste disposal and "twinning" programmes between the Community and certain nuclear power producers. In the medium and long term important commercial interests will come into play.

87. The Commission and the member States of the Community together contribute nearly ECU 90 million to the Multilateral Fund for Nuclear Reactor Safety and Radiation Protection, established by EBRD, out of a total of ECU 118 million. Assistance from this fund to be directed to two Russian nuclear power plants is in the planning stage. The fund also includes a technical assistance project specifically for Chernobyl to increase the safety of Unit 4, for which ECU 0.5 million is earmarked.

C. Bilateral activities

88. A number of bilateral programmes are being undertaken on a national basis by European Community member States, some of which are also linked to multilateral schemes. The primary focus of bilateral activity undertaken by the member States of the Community is in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection. This includes risk and safety assessments, radioactive waste management, advisory services, training, the organization of symposia and

the improvement of nuclear safety systems. Financial commitments in these fields are approximately $35 million. The second important field of activity is that of contamination, radiation measurement and subsequent land remediation, entailing expenditures of about $29 million. The cost of technical equipment for these purposes amounts to $25 million up to 1995. Medical assistance has also been provided, including the establishment of a medical centre for victims of Chernobyl in Gomel (Belarus) and training facilities in Minsk, totalling over $106 million in cost. Food aid provided to the affected States since 1986 amounts to over $110 million. Holidays for children from the wider Chernobyl region have entailed about $16 million. Additional humanitarian assistance, such as the treatment of Chernobyl victims, in most cases children, in hospitals of member States of the Community, has been provided.

89. Canada is funding, jointly with the Commission of the European Communities, a project to review the safety of RBMK reactors. The project is being undertaken on a regional basis in the Commonwealth of Independent States and extends to Lithuania.

90. France is undertaking projects aimed at the rehabilitation of soils in the areas affected by Chernobyl. Support and the training of personnel in health-related activities have also been provided by its institutions, through IPHECA.

91. Italian scientific research institutions are active in bilateral and multilateral studies on the health effects of the Chernobyl accident. The Italian Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, is carrying out a programme to monitor the exposure of the affected populations to radiation. To date the Agency has contributed over Lit 1.5 billion to this project and has also made available its mobile laboratory, in addition to specialized researchers. The Institute for Experimental Medicine, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, has financed the preliminary phase of a project concerning the treatment of illnesses deriving from exposure to small quantities of radionuclides, at a cost of Lit 390 million. An extensive study has been undertaken in Italian hospitals on groups of 300 children from areas affected by the accident. Italy is contributing ECU 10 million over a three-year period to the EBRD Multilateral Fund for Nuclear Reactor Safety and Radiation Protection.

92. Germany has, since mid-1991, carried out measurements of the radiation exposure of about 160,000 people and radiation readings at about 3,000 locations, over an area of about 10,000 km² in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, involving over 100 German specialists. Germany is at present undertaking preparatory work for the development of radiation-protection techniques for the decontamination of natural objects, buildings and installations resulting from the Chernobyl accident.

93. Japan is contributing to a collaborative project to review the safety of RBMK nuclear power plants in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and is supporting a project implemented through the Chernobyl Centre for International Research for the assessment and analysis of radiation consequences and evaluation of the assessment methods.

94. The Netherlands is involved in a collaborative project to review the safety of RBMK nuclear power plants in the Commonwealth of Independent States that have already been identified as deficient. Support and the training of personnel in

health-related activities have also been provided by its institutions, through IPHECA. The Netherlands is also sponsoring the establishment of a medical diagnosis and consultation centre in Belarus.

95. Norway has been involved in addressing the need for agricultural countermeasures, identified in the international Chernobyl project, through low-cost application of caesium binders which reduce the radioactivity levels in the milk and meat of grazing animals in the affected States. Field trials have been successfully completed in cooperation with the FAO/IAEA Joint Division, and the recipient States have expressed interest in the expansion of this project.

96. Spain has provided rehabilitative holidays to 420 children from the Briansk region of the Russian Federation, affected by the Chernobyl disaster, at a total cost of Ptas 71,840,000.

97. The Swedish Government, using the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate as its executing body, is presently funding a cooperation and assistance programme aimed at assessing and improving RBMK reactors in the Russian Federation and the Ukraine and, most particularly, in the Baltic States. Activities in this regard also extend over a wider area of Central and Eastern Europe. Sweden has so far set aside SKr 188 million for the whole region. It has additionally contributed ECU 3 million to the EBRD Multilateral Fund for Nuclear Reactor Safety and Radiation Protection.

98. Between February and October 1991, Switzerland provided medical and technical support to a country hospital in Ukraine, 30 miles west of Chernobyl, at a total cost of SwF 600,000. Instruments were provided to the research centre in Chernobyl at a cost of SwF 100,000. A multiphased dosimetry project, aimed at measuring the radiation exposure of populations in Belarus and Ukraine, was undertaken by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit in cooperation with the Paul Scherrer Institute. The total cost of the measuring facilities and for the various missions amounted to SwF 1 million.

99. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is carrying out a project of radioactive contamination monitoring, through which advice is being provided to Ukraine on the measurement of radioactive contamination levels in foodstuffs around Kiev in order to ensure food quality, particularly for export. It has also undertaken to finance a post-Chernobyl land remediation study aimed at the economic and social rehabilitation of affected areas in Ukraine at a cost of £217,000. A project is also under way involving the transfer of experience on nuclear power plant and safety management, through the twinning of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant with the Dungeness A nuclear power plant.

100. The United States of America is providing assistance to the Russian Federation and Ukraine for operational safety improvements in nuclear power plants. Through these activities, the United States Department of Energy and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations assist those countries in the development of system-based emergency operating instructions for various types of reactor plants, at a cost of $6,794,266.

101. Numerous non-governmental organizations and institutions, notably the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Japanese Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, have been active in providing assistance in the field of health and the provision of urgent supplies (see also

A/47/322/Add.1 and 2-E/1992/102/Add.1 and 2). Many of these organizations and institutions participate through IPHECA. WHO is at present compiling a database on all institutions and organizations involved in projects to address the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident in the three affected States.

V. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

102. The exchange of information that has been undertaken since the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly has enabled a fuller understanding of the differing approaches taken by the respective organizations. It has demonstrated clear distinctions in both the principal fields of assistance being provided and in the main objectives that guide and, moreover, ensure financing for these activities.

103. Considerable assistance is being rendered by the European Community and the group of 24 countries in the field of decontamination of territories affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Assistance on their part, however, is most extensive and well-funded in the field of nuclear safety, encompassing not only the States affected by the Chernobyl disaster, but other areas of Eastern and Central Europe where a risk is perceived on the basis of western nuclear safety standards. Research efforts are being undertaken in the fields of health, food, agriculture and the environment. The premise in this approach is to prevent "other Chernobyls" from occurring, to enhance preparedness should they occur, and to elaborate appropriate methodologies to address potential consequences based on the findings of studies on the effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

104. The United Nations was, from the outset, specifically mandated to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in the most affected States. In the course of addressing this issue, these consequences have crystallized into concrete and urgent needs of the affected populations that are reflected in the four priority areas for action. The overriding objective of the United Nations system has thus been to achieve the most effective results in dealing with the health, social and environmental effects and after-effects that are manifest.

105. The approach of the United Nations was adapted to address this issue realistically within the more complex economic and social context that has evolved in the affected States. It has also had to respond to concerns that the interest of the international community with regard to the effects of the accident lay principally in research. An appropriate balance had therefore to be achieved in the light of pleas for real assistance.

106. These two basic approaches, however, are complementary, and can further be considered as providing a solid basis for an appropriate and effective division of labour, as they encompass between them the immediate priority requirements of the affected populations and territories, imperative measures to prevent a recurrence of such tragic proportions, international agreement and guidelines on measures that should be undertaken in the event of a similar occurrence and, finally, an unprecedented understanding of the health, social and environmental impact of the disaster itself.

107. Areas of overlap, reflecting common interest, provide obvious opportunities for collaboration, for resources to be combined to enable more meaningful

assistance and for the pooling of expertise and knowledge in an evolving science. In this regard, existing examples of collaboration are clearly demonstrative of the advantages.

108. The role that the United Nations can best play is one that cultivates an interdisciplinary focus, necessitated by the diverse nature of the accident's effects. On a project-specific basis, it can be a catalyst for the involvement of the international community in mobilizing purposeful support to whichever organization or institution can most effectively respond to the priority needs.

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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-eighth session and to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution.

2. The following documents related to topics covered by the resolution were submitted to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session, held from 10 to 28 May 1993:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing the observations and suggestions by Member States on ways and means of furthering the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries (A/AC.198/1993/2 and A/AC.198/1993/2/Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.198/1993/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Publications Board in the development of criteria for United Nations publications (A/AC.198/1993/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on continuous and major publications of the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/1993/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the ways and means of redressing differences in the allocation of resources, in particular the differences of support, in relation to the financing of United Nations information centres in various countries (A/AC.198/1993/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on his plan of integrating United Nations information centres with other United Nations offices, while maintaining the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres (A/AC.198/1993/7);

(g) Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1993/8);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992 (A/AC.198/1993/9).

3. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in two statements delivered to the Committee on Information.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information are reflected in its report to the General Assembly. 1/ As in the past, the present report avoids, to the extent possible, repetition of the material contained in the reports submitted to the Committee on Information. It covers mainly items not considered by the Committee or updates the information contained in the reports referred to above.

5. The present report focuses essentially on the special activities and products of the Department of Public Information. It does not cover in detail the contents of regular publications and radio and television programmes, such as UN Chronicle, Notes for Speakers, DPI/NGO Briefing Summaries, "Perspective", "UN in Action" and "World Chronicle", as well as other print and audio-visual services that disseminate information on a continuing basis on the range of issues dealt with by the United Nations.

II. DISARMAMENT INFORMATION PROGRAMME

6. In paragraph 2 (a) (ii) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General was called upon to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to disarmament.

7. In close cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Department has carried out a number of activities to promote the objectives of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. A press kit on the Secretary-General's report on new dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era and a 15-minute documentary, "Disarmament and peace", were produced within the context of the 1992 Disarmament Week.

8. During the reporting period, the Department continued to produce radio programmes on disarmament-related issues for world-wide dissemination. In addition to news bulletins and current affairs programmes, the Department produced several features and documentaries, including "The chemical weapons convention" and "Fostering transparency in arms transfer", which were adapted into Bangla, Chinese, French, Indonesian, Hindi, Russian, Turkish and Urdu. Others included "Disarmament after the Cold War" and "Mines: inhuman classical arms" in French and Spanish respectively. Four features entitled "The creation of nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East", "From disarmament to development", "The transfer of armaments register" and "Convention on chemical weapons - the way to the future" were produced in Arabic.

9. As for video productions, three segments of the "UN in Action"/CNN World Report, featuring "Conversion in Russia", "Moscow: from rockets to teapots" and "Chemical weapons", were disseminated in more than 140 countries. A video documentary, "Chemical weapons", was co-produced by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. A United Nations version of the same documentary will be released soon. Moreover, a 30-minute video documentary on disarmament issues in the post-cold-war world, with a special focus on United Nations activities, such as a new arms trade register and verification and inspection measures, is expected to be completed by the end of 1993.

10. Preparations are under way for joint public information activities by the Department of Public Information and the Office for Disarmament Affairs for the 1993 Disarmament Week, including the production of information materials and the organization of a two-day symposium, to be held at Headquarters.

III. PEACE-KEEPING AND PEACEMAKING

11. In paragraph 2 (a) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to peace-keeping operations and peacemaking.

12. In pursuance of this resolution, the Department provided advice and technical support to the peace-keeping missions on their information activities, while also continuing to disseminate information on United Nations peace-keeping activities and on political missions. Periodic updates on all the ongoing peace-keeping operations, along with comprehensive reference papers on the situation in Somalia and in the former Yugoslavia, as well as a number of feature articles and backgrounders, were issued during the period under review.

13. For issuance in September 1993, the Department has also prepared a booklet containing an overview of the United Nations peace-keeping activities along with concise information on past and current operations. As requested by the General Assembly, an updated edition of the publication The Blue Helmets is being prepared.

14. The Department also produced a wall chart on past and present United Nations peace-keeping operations in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, incorporating a photo montage, time line and brief descriptions of all operations that were in place by September 1992. The wall chart, distributed through the United Nations information centres, other United Nations field offices and non-governmental organizations, also formed part of the special supplement on the history of United Nations peace-keeping in the Quarterly Journal of Military History. 2/

15. The Department also began broadcasting new ad hoc radio reports on Somalia and on the former Yugoslavia. These programmes are now broadcast by the Italian Radio Relay Service and by the Radio for Peace International and can be heard in Europe, North and South America and the Caribbean.

16. Moreover, the Department also prepared features on the situation in Haiti and on the activities on the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq's weapons capabilities. In addition, early in 1993, the Department lent its full support to the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea by designing and producing, at the Mission's request, a variety of printed and audio-visual information materials. A video team and a radio officer were dispatched to provide on-the-spot coverage of the referendum. One video segment, "United Nations monitors Eritrean independence referendum" was produced for "UN in Action"/CNN World Report. Two radio reports from Eritrea were widely disseminated. After the announcement of the results of the referendum, an interview with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Eritrea was included in various radio programmes. He was also featured on "World Chronicle".

17. During the reporting period, segments of the "UN in Action"/CNN World Report were also produced on Angola, Cambodia, Eritrea, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia. Some of the titles were "The Cambodians vote enthusiastically in the country's first multi-party elections", "Yugoslavia situation report",

"Saving Somalia", and "Fighting threatens to derail Angola's first multi-party elections". A 12-minute television news story on Cambodia was co-produced with Contact Productions Co. and broadcast widely in Europe, as well as on the BBC World Service Television. In May 1992, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia was featured on "World Chronicle". The Department also completed the production of a 30-minute documentary video on the outcome of the peace process in Central America, entitled "Hora zero - Nicaragua y El Salvador", in English and Spanish.

18. An 18-minute educational video and a teaching manual on United Nations peace-keeping and peacemaking activities in English, French and Spanish is being produced by the Department in the "Teaching about the United Nations" series. The production is the ninth in the series and will be available for distribution in November 1993.

IV. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DECOLONIZATION AND THE SITUATION IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

19. In paragraph 2 (a) (iv) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in light of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

20. In that connection, the Department, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs and in consultation with the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance of the Special Committee on Decolonization, has continued to carry out the programme of activities to publicize the inalienable right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In 1993, a report on the Department's activities in this field was submitted to the Special Committee on Decolonization by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance. 3/

21. With a view to highlighting the achievements of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Department published and widely disseminated in its United Nations Focus series excerpts from a statement made by the Secretary-General on 10 February 1993 at the opening of the 1993 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

V. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

22. In paragraph 2 (a) (v) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to human rights and, in that context, to the World Conference on Human Rights.

23. During the reporting period, the Department continued its multi-media approach to ensure the effective coverage of United Nations human rights

activities, as well as world-wide distribution of relevant information materials, with special attention being devoted to the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993.

24. The Department's activities undertaken under the regular budget included the commemoration of Human Rights Day; the production of print materials, such as pamphlets, backgrounders, booklets, feature articles, posters, logo sheets, and brochures; outreach and liaison with the media and NGOs to promote the work of the Organization in the area of human rights; language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; reprints and new language production, of various human rights instruments; publication of the biannual subscription publication entitled Objective: Justice; and the continued acquisition of documentation and development of reference services on human rights by the libraries of the United Nations information centres and services.

25. The Department's programme of public information activities and information coverage aimed specifically at promoting the World Conference comprised a wide range of activities. A pre-Conference, illustrated brochure on the aims and purposes of the Conference (DPI/1273) and a multi-coloured poster (DPI/1226) were produced in the six official languages, as well as in German. Two editions of a press information kit (DPI/1279), produced for dissemination to the United Nations information centres, and a selected list of media and non-governmental organizations world wide were distributed in time for the observance of Human Rights Day in 1992 and again just prior to the Conference, in English, French and Spanish. The kit included the following feature articles: "United Nations mechanisms to protect human rights" (DPI/1290), "Providing human rights technical assistance" (DPI/1274), "Human rights and development" (DPI/1275), "Human rights and humanitarian assistance" (DPI/1291), "Human rights and the girl child" (DPI/1284) and "Eliminating torture" (DPI/1292). Two photostats of the Conference logo design in all official languages for possible reproduction were also contained in each kit. A black-and-white print public service announcement based on the design of the Conference poster was also produced for free placement in magazines and newspapers. In addition, in cooperation with the Austrian Television and with independent producers, the Department produced television public service announcements that were distributed for broadcast in Europe and the Americas. The Department prepared a 17-minute compilation of select video footage illustrating human rights and its violations, and distributed it to television stations world wide. On the Conference site, the Department, in close cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), also organized an exhibition on human rights issues, together with the continuous showing of United Nations video documentaries.

26. In addition, a special eight-page supplement on the issues before the Conference and pre-Conference activities was printed in the March edition of the UN Chronicle. Beginning in May 1993, a special edition on human rights of the publication Notes for Speakers was also distributed in English. An updated version, including the results of the World Conference, is being prepared for release in October in English, French and Spanish. Also, the June 1993 edition of Objective: Justice was entirely devoted to the coverage of the preparations for the World Conference.

27. A number of feature articles were issued within the United Nations Focus series (in English, French and Spanish), to cover in greater detail human rights issues and the issues before the Conference. The titles distributed included: "Ending discrimination: a fundamental right" (DPI/1008); "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" (DPI/1112); "The quest for women's rights" (DPI/1144); "List of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" (DPI/1145.Rev.1); "Violence against women in the home, the workplace and society" (DPI/1174); "Changing the status quo, United Nations work for women" (DPI/1191); "Human rights and the family" (DPI/1203); "Apartheid: South Africa" (DPI/1281); and "Women and human rights" (DPI/1327).

28. Also, the Department produced a special documentary series of eight radio programmes on major themes and issues before the Conference. The series was produced in English and translated into 14 other official and non-official languages. It was released for distribution to approximately 7,500 radio stations and networks world wide that receive and broadcast United Nations radio programmes on a regular basis.

29. During an encounter organized by the Department in Vienna, over 300 journalists were briefed on the main issues before the Conference. With the financial assistance of the Austrian Government, the Department arranged for the attendance at the Conference of journalists from the Russian Federation, the Eastern European countries, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

30. The Department's team assembled to cover the Conference organized the work of the spokesperson's office and provided media liaison, press accreditation, Conference press coverage, radio, television and photo coverage and information servicing of the United Nations information centres and other United Nations information outlets. During the Conference, a special radio team filed some 58 reports and round-ups in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish) to be fed on a daily basis to an average of 30 broadcasting organizations and networks throughout the world. In addition to the regular dissemination system by radio/telephone circuits, a special electronic voice bulletin board was also set up, to store incoming feeds in all five languages that could be retrieved by telephone.

31. During the reporting period, the Department received almost 4,000 requests for information on human rights and distributed some 273,000 copies of its human rights publications in bulk, in addition to more than 500,000 copies distributed by request. Also, 83 briefings and nine special film/video screenings on human rights issues were organized at Headquarters. Further, information on United Nations work in the field of human rights was provided to approximately half a million visitors to Headquarters.

32. The International Year of the World's Indigenous People was formally launched on Human Rights Day in 1992. Hundreds of indigenous leaders and traditional elders, as well as representatives of Member States, indigenous communities, non-governmental organizations, the press and personalities of the academic and art worlds witnessed the historic occasion, which ended with a performance of a number of songs and dances of various indigenous people,

organized by the Department in cooperation with a number of United Nations agencies.

33. In addition to providing full press coverage of the opening ceremonies in the General Assembly Hall, the Department responded to an enormous number of requests for information concerning the launch of the Year from media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and individuals. Since then, the Department has continued to make available on request copies of press releases, audio and video tapes and photographic coverage of the event.

34. A number of "UN in Action" television programmes, produced in English for the CNN World Report (and in additional languages for wider distribution) for broadcast in more than 140 countries, featured issues related to indigenous people. On 6 December 1992, CNN broadcast a special report on human rights and indigenous people, to which the Department contributed an item about the launch of the Year. In addition, two programmes in the "World Chronicle" series were devoted to the International Year.

35. A chapter of the 1993 publication Notes for Speakers on human rights issues was devoted to indigenous people. The publication will be re-issued later in 1993 in English, as well as in French and Spanish. The International Year was also featured as a cover story in the June 1993 issue of UN Chronicle.

36. In September 1993, the Department released a leaflet on the Year in English, French and Spanish, aimed at upper primary-level students. The Department is also funding the translation and printing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into a number of languages.

37. In October 1993, the Department will hold a major exhibition entitled "Common threads: indigenous people and the modern world" in the lobby of the General Assembly building at Headquarters.

VI. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

38. In paragraph 2 (a) (vii) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the advancement of the status of women and their role in society.

39. During the reporting period, the Department continued to develop the public information strategy for the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, taking into account the recommendations made on that subject at the seventeenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Proposals for inter-agency activities on issues related to the Conference were also made to the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC). A fact sheet on the Conference has been produced and widely disseminated to the media, non-governmental organizations and the public at large. This fact sheet will be updated periodically and will be followed by press kits.

40. In observance of the International Women's Day on 4 March 1993, the Department held a panel discussion on "Violence against women" at Headquarters.

In addition, in accordance with the priority themes established by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Department is also producing feature articles on women and poverty and women in public life.

41. During the reporting period, the Department continued to produce in English the weekly radio series "Women", as well as bi-monthly programmes in Arabic, French and Spanish. Topics covered during the past year included "Women's rights as human rights", "Women and AIDS", "The education of the girl child" and "Women and literacy". The Department also plans to produce programmes on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, on the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, and on women in public life.

42. Four video segments of "UN in Action" on women's issues covered violence against women, women and literacy, self-help day care centres in Argentina and women's empowerment in Namibia. Also, the Department produced a programme in the "World Chronicle" series on the rights of women in the development process.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

43. In paragraph 2 (a) (ix) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information on the issues relating to economic and social development.

44. During the reporting period, the Department organized the promotion of major United Nations publications on those issues, including the 1993 World Economic Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation 1993. It organized the press launch of the Survey, which included the production and world-wide distribution of a backgrounder and of an executive summary, as well as a press luncheon and interviews with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, in New York and in Geneva. As a result, the Survey was covered by some 40 news organizations world wide.

45. The Department also continued to provide coverage of the meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. A background press release on the Report on the World Social Situation was issued in February 1993. In addition, the leaflet "Social Agenda #7", outlining United Nations activities in the field of social development and providing a calendar of forthcoming events, was produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish.

46. To observe the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly devoted four meetings to disability issues on 12 and 13 October 1992 and declared 3 December the International Day of Disabled Persons.

47. In support of these events, the Department initiated a wide range of activities and information materials, including disability-related articles, a press kit, a reprint and an abbreviated version of "The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", press conferences, a briefing for non-governmental organizations, an exhibit, and a demonstration of computer technology for disabled persons. A radio documentary entitled "The end of the

Decade of Disabled Persons" was produced for world-wide distribution. The Department also provided liaison for a joint initiative by the Harvard University Law School and the United Nations to publish an annual review of international disability legislation.

48. In connection with the International Day for the Elderly, 1 October, and the special meetings of the General Assembly in observance of the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing, held on 15 and 16 October 1992, the Department developed and carried out a variety of information activities, including background and feature articles, a press kit, a travelling exhibit, and the coverage of the special plenary meeting of the General Assembly on ageing.

49. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Division of General Assembly Affairs, the Department organized at Headquarters the observance of the World AIDS Day on 1 December 1992. The President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations were among the speakers in a special meeting of the General Assembly on this issue. The Director-General of WHO, as well as prominent figures in the fight against AIDS from Canada, India, Uganda and the United States of America took part in a special briefing for delegations entitled "A community commitment". In addition, the Department released a documentary radio programme in the "Women" series entitled "Communities educating to combat AIDS: how women are involved".

50. The Department regularly provides assistance to the Geneva-based secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000) in implementing an information programme for the Decade, which the Department helped prepare. One of the goals of that programme is to raise public awareness of how the impact of disasters can be reduced by proper planning, prevention and preparedness at the local, national, regional and international levels. This is an area in which the media play a vital role by disseminating information about impending disasters and about ongoing relief operations. Accordingly, the Department regularly enlists their support through interviews and other forms of outreach. It also helped promote the second meeting of the Special High-Level Council on Natural Disaster Reduction held in New York in January 1993 and the fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Committee, held in New Delhi in February 1993. The Department organized an observance at Headquarters of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (14 October 1992) and produced a feature article and a student leaflet on the topic. It assisted the Decade secretariat further in planning a public information campaign for the upcoming World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held in Yokohama, Japan in May 1994.

51. The Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Year of the Family, prepared an information programme for the 1994 Year of the Family. An information kit in English, French and Spanish will be available in November 1993. Several radio programmes on family issues were produced in the "Perspective" series. A radio programme on "Women and the family" was also produced and disseminated in the "Women" series. In December 1993, the Department will undertake a series of activities in connection with the launch of the Year by the General Assembly. It will also cooperate with the secretariat for the Year in providing information materials

for the launch of the Year by non-governmental organizations, to take place at an NGO meeting, scheduled to be held in Malta from 29 November to 3 December 1993.

52. During the reporting period, the Department has also been preparing its programme of activities for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. In anticipation of this event, the Department organized the forty-sixth annual DPI/NGO Conference, which took place from 8 to 10 September 1993; its theme was "Social development: a new definition for security". This event was attended by over 1,000 participants. A background press release and a note concerning a briefing by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit were also written in advance of the High-Level meeting of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva in July 1993.

53. The Department also prepared a draft information programme for the 1995 Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. It designed a special logo for the United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice.

VIII. ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

54. In paragraph 2 (a) (xi) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to environment and development.

55. During the reporting period, the Department has continued to promote and provide information on the key issues and events for which the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development serves as secretariat. In this connection, on the occasion of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which coincided with the first anniversary of the Earth Summit, the Department conducted a media campaign by telefax, telephone and mail that generated considerable press interest, including feature-length coverage in The New York Times, Financial Times, The Guardian, Christian Science Monitor, San Francisco Chronicle, La Libération, National Public Radio and Business Week, as well as articles in many other newspapers. In addition, a Handbook on Sustainable Development, targeted to journalists and editors, is being prepared.

56. The Department has also planned an information campaign in support of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the negotiations for a Convention on Desertification. Additionally, the Department provided media outreach for the Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which resulted in feature-length coverage in The New York Times, Atlanta Constitution and The Independent, among other outlets.

57. In response to the wide public interest in the 1992 Earth Summit, the Department prepared an information programme as a follow-up to the 1992 Conference. Numerous background information materials, including the press summary of Agenda 21, now in its third printing, and the texts of the other Rio de Janiero agreements were produced and distributed in English, French and Spanish. The full text of Agenda 21 was produced as a sales item in English and

French and distributed free of charge to non-governmental organizations in the developing countries. Several United Nations information centres are working with government agencies, non-governmental organizations and commercial publishers to translate and produce Agenda 21 in a number of languages, including Greek, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian.

58. The Department also coordinated the presentation at Headquarters of the first annual environmental awards conferred on prominent supporters of sustainable development by Earth Day International, a Canadian non-governmental organization. The awards were presented simultaneously via satellite transmission both at Headquarters and in Los Angeles. Among the participants in this event was the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The event was extensively covered by the media. In addition, an article entitled "Protecting the Earth's last great wilderness: Antarctica" was prepared by the Department for the United Nations Focus series.

IX. CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

59. In paragraph 2 (a) (xiv) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General was called upon to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the international efforts against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

60. In this connection, the Department, in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, produced a series of three public service announcements in support of the International Day Against Drug Abuse. The television spots, which featured Olympic Gold Medallist Carl Lewis and several of his teammates, were distributed world wide. The Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme was also featured on "World Chronicle".

61. "Should the non-medical use of drugs be legalized?" was the title of a radio documentary produced in English. The programme was adapted into various languages versions and disseminated world wide.

X. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

62. In paragraph 2 (a) (xvi) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department of Public Information was requested to disseminate information in support of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and for the tremendous efforts of the African countries aimed at recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa.

63. In pursuance of the mandate contained in the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Department has continued its efforts to raise international awareness of the African situation and the efforts being made by African countries to initiate recovery. On the basis of information published in the quarterly publication Africa Recovery and other publications of the

Department, numerous articles describing the crises faced by the continent have appeared in the international press, including that of Africa.

64. The Department also produced a brochure on the obstacle that external debt poses to African development. This led to a request for a briefing by the Department of Public Information for United States Congressional aides and Administration officials, which took place in Washington, D.C. on 15 April 1993. The Department also invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to take part in the briefing.

65. The Department assisted UNICEF in organizing a seminar for senior European journalists on the International Conference on Assistance to African Children, sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, held in Dakar, in November 1992. The Seminar, which took place in London on 11 November 1992, helped in generating wide media coverage for the Conference.

66. During the reporting period, the Department also produced a number of comprehensive briefing papers covering the peace-keeping and humanitarian operations in Somalia and in Mozambique, food security on the continent, and the successful prevention - by the United Nations, the international donor community and the affected southern African countries - of a widely feared large-scale famine in southern Africa in 1992.

67. In addition, the Department handled media liaison and provided technical support for "Somalia's Cry", a Life magazine exhibition of photographs sponsored by Time-Warner, Inc. in cooperation with the United Nations and shown in the General Assembly Lobby at Headquarters in November 1992.

XI. ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID

68. In paragraph 2 (a) (xvii) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information pertaining to international efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. Where necessary, it highlighted the role of the United Nations in this context.

69. As South Africa's communities, political parties and leaders continued their negotiations to achieve the goal of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, the Department directed its efforts at reporting on these developments, mainly through print material and radio programmes.

70. The Department continued to produce 164 radio programmes per year and a weekly telephone feed in English. The radio programmes, translated into Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu, are disseminated to radio organizations whose transmissions can be heard in South Africa and in neighbouring countries, as well as to radio stations in other parts of the world. On short-wave, the United Nations anti-apartheid programmes are now also broadcast by Radio for Peace International to Europe, Central and North America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Department continued to distribute the seven-language version of the poster "For a united, non-racial South Africa", as well as a postcard version of the poster, produced in English and French. "World Chronicle" also

devoted a programme to the United Nations educational and training assistance to victims of apartheid in South Africa.

71. With the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, the Department has been looking into the possibility of organizing a round table on the United Nations image in South Africa, to take place in early 1994.

XII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

72. In paragraph 2 (a) (xviii) of resolution 47/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, also including current developments in that region and the ongoing peace process.

73. Information activities pertaining to this mandate were also carried out by the Department within the framework of its special programme on the question of Palestine requested by General Assembly resolution 47/64 C of 11 December 1992.

74. Within this context, in cooperation with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and with the support of The Guardian, the Department sponsored an International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, held in London from 9 to 11 June 1993. The theme of the Encounter was "Promoting a culture for peace in the Middle East". Issues related to cultural obstacles to peace, the role of national authorities, the media and intellectuals in promoting mutual recognition and respect and confidence-building measures were explored. The Encounter was opened by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and moderated by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Prominent Palestinian and Israeli personalities, as well as experts from European and other countries served as panellists.

75. In addition, as foreseen in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, section 31-13, preparations are under way for a fact-finding news mission for journalists to the Middle East and an encounter for journalists, designed to reinforce the efforts of the Secretary-General to support the momentum in the Middle East peace process.

76. During the reporting period, a radio documentary entitled "The question of international protection for the Palestinian people" was produced in English. The programme was translated and distributed to some 350 radio stations around the world. Further, two original one-hour video programmes on Palestine were produced by "Point du Jour" in cooperation with the United Nations. A 30-minute version in English is expected to be completed by the end of 1993 for distribution by the Department.

XIII. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH

77. Paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 47/73 B called on the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information continue its efforts to promote an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world and to strengthen the positive image of the system as a whole.

78. The Department undertook a number of activities aimed at improving its ability to target audiences and amplify its messages. In this connection, the United Nations/International Public Relations Association Award for outstanding public relations campaigns that address priority United Nations issues was established. The 1992 award and honourable mentions were presented, respectively, for programmes aimed at raising the status of women in India, expanding community-based health care in Africa, and increasing awareness of environment/development issues in the United States of America.

79. Another exercise of this kind has been the United Nations Information Fair, held at Headquarters from 20 to 30 October 1992 and attended by more than 18,000 visitors. This inter-agency, interdepartmental event, now entering its fourth year, affords United Nations agency participants the opportunity to distribute information about their work and to meet with visitors to Headquarters, particularly students and educators.

80. In pursuing wider outreach, the Department has also extended its services to public access databases, namely Federal News in Washington, D.C. and Agora in Italy, while continuing the distribution of its daily products and of major United Nations documents to Reuters and to Global Education Motivators, a non-governmental organization that manages an information service about the United Nations.

81. As part of its outreach efforts, the Department continues to disseminate its own materials, as well as publications from substantive departments and documents covering the entire range of the Organization's activities. It also prepares information backgrounders, which are updated regularly for use by students, educators, parliamentarians and researchers.

82. Recently, the Department has prepared a question-and-answer paper on peace-keeping. It is also producing a booklet containing an overview of the United Nations for middle and high school students. Plans are under way for developing a set of basic materials to be used in the classroom, which can be easily reproduced and adapted in languages other than English.

83. In November 1992, the fortieth anniversary of the guided tours was observed with the participation of more than 200 present and former guides. More than 33 million visitors have taken the guided tour of United Nations Headquarters since its doors first opened to the public, approximately 500,000 per year at this time. In order to accommodate security concerns, the tours have recently been revised, and temporarily suspended as of 18 September 1993. It is hoped that a remodelled tour can again be made available to the public very soon.

84. During the reporting period, the Department continued its activities in support of non-governmental organizations. The Department organized a special

two-day orientation course for these organizations, which consisted of briefings by senior Secretariat officials on various aspects of United Nations activities. It also undertook a review of its relations with its 1,269 NGO partners, with a view to determining the effectiveness of its dissemination efforts. A questionnaire intended to evaluate the activities of accredited non-governmental organizations was circulated. The Department also continued to issue its annual directory of associated non-governmental organizations and is currently creating two new directories that will classify these organizations by country and by their specialty and/or field of interest.

XIV. CONTINUOUS AND MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

85. In paragraph 2 (d) of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General was called upon to ensure that the Department continue its efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination of its mandated publications, in particular the UN Chronicle, The Yearbook of the United Nations, Development Forum and Africa Recovery.

86. As requested in paragraph 2 (e) of the same resolution, the Department submitted to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session a report (A/AC.198/1993/5) on its continuous and major publications, also providing, for the first time, an estimate of their cost.

87. With a view to maximizing the productivity of the considerable resources, both human and financial resources invested in these publications, the Department is currently re-evaluating its publications policy, starting with the quarterly magazine UN Chronicle.

88. The UN Chronicle, entering its thirtieth year as the Organization's comprehensive news-oriented periodical on United Nations activities and events, continues to provide consolidated reports on the activities of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as those of other United Nations legislative and deliberative bodies, as well as on news from the entire United Nations system. Regular reports are also provided on all peace-keeping missions, economic and social development, disarmament, environment, decolonization and legal issues. A new, sleeker design, for the first time utilizing two colours, was introduced in the beginning of 1993. Over the last year, the UN Chronicle produced special sections on the World Conference on Human Rights, International Space Year, the work of the World Health Organization, the debate at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Year of Indigenous People, and, most recently, on the new generation of peace-keeping activities and on the results of the elections in Cambodia. Ways to better the marketing of the magazine and to widen its audience, in line with requests by the General Assembly, are currently being discussed.

89. As a result of the efforts to restore the Yearbook to a timely publication schedule, the 1991 edition (volume 45), was published in December 1992 in the record time of nine months. At the moment, of the remaining three backlog editions of the Yearbook, the preparation of volume 42:1988 is at an advanced stage, with its publication scheduled for this fall. Meanwhile, work is under way on the 1992 edition, which is scheduled for completion and publication by

December 1993. As for the remaining two backlog issues, those for the 1989 and 1990, the Department plans to produce them concurrently with the 1993 and 1994 editions scheduled for publication by December 1994 and 1995, respectively.

90. In late 1992, the financial situation of Development Forum deteriorated to the point at which it could no longer continue publishing without additional subventions from the regular budget. Since no additional funds were approved, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions agreed with the Secretary-General's recommendation to cease publication of Development Forum by 31 December 1992. Discussions are under way in JUNIC concerning a new system-wide publication on development issues. At this time, no funds have been identified for this purpose and the Committee continues to look into different options in this regard. In this connection, a potential source of financial support has been envisaged in the profit that might possibly be derived from the merging of United Nations Development Business and the World Bank's International Business Opportunities, an option currently being considered.

91. Complying with both its overall needs for a greater efficiency and the interest expressed by the Committee on Information, the Department is currently undertaking surveys on the "World Chronicle" and Africa Recovery, as well as on the potential of non-governmental organizations as partners in the implementation of United Nations information activities, (see para. 84 above).

XV. ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR BROADCASTERS AND JOURNALISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

92. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (f) of resolution 47/73 B, which requested the Department to continue its briefings, assistance and orientation programmes for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries focused on United Nations-related issues, the Department is preparing the 1993 training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries. Broadcasters and journalists from 15 countries are scheduled to take part in the six-week programme, which took place at United Nations Headquarters from 14 September to 22 October 1993. The participants, who have been chosen in consultation with the field offices of the United Nations on a rotating basis, will come from Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Suriname, Uganda and Uruguay. Four journalists sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany will also take part.

93. During the programme, the participants received skills development and in-service training in the Department, undertook professional assignments and attended briefings by United Nations officials and representatives of media organizations. They also visited the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C.

94. The 1993 group brought to 224 the total number of broadcasters and journalists from more than 120 countries who have participated in the programme since it was started in 1981.

XVI. COOPERATION WITH THE NEWS AGENCIES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

95. In paragraph 2 (g) of resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued its policies of cooperation with news agencies in all developing countries, in particular the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries. During the reporting period, the Department provided the news agency Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), which currently holds the chairmanship of the Pool, with daily news items on a variety of economic, social, environmental and other priority issues. In addition, the Department's daily news items are sent to the Indonesian news service, ANTARA, a major regional news agency in the South Pacific/Indian Ocean region and then dispatched to other members of the Organization of Asian News Agencies, which comprises some 25 national news agencies in the region.

XVII. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

96. In paragraph 2 (h) of resolution 47/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information continued its policies of cooperation with all agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

97. Paragraph 2 (g) of the above resolution also called on the Department to provide, on the basis of its activities, information to UNESCO about new forms of cooperation, at the regional and subregional levels, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructures of developing countries.

98. During the reporting period, the Department, in cooperation with UNESCO, issued in English, French and Russian the "Report of the Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media", held in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, from 5 to 9 October 1992, and the "Declaration of Alma Ata on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Asian Media". The Department joined UNESCO in actively disseminating these two documents world wide, particularly in the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. The Department also pursued consultations with UNESCO on the implementation of the Declaration of Alma Ata.

99. The Department has joined UNESCO in organizing a seminar on promoting independent and pluralistic media in the Latin American and Caribbean region, to be held in April 1994 in Santiago, Chile. The seminar will focus on the role that independent media can play in support of developmental needs in the rural areas and in the shantytowns surrounding large cities.

XVIII. UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES

100. In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General submitted to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session a comprehensive report on his decision to integrate certain United Nations information centres with other United Nations field offices. The

decision was prompted by the need to project a unified image of the United Nations in the field, to broaden information activities to cover more fully such vital issues as development, to facilitate inter-agency coordination and avoid duplication and to save through the sharing of common services. To date, 18 information centres have been integrated with field offices of UNDP.

101. This requires coordination not only between the respective headquarters, but also between field offices of the United Nations system. The Secretary-General intends to build on what has already been achieved through the experience of the integrated field offices presently in operation in order to further enhance the effectiveness of the Organization in all areas of its endeavour. The United Nations information centres will continue to play their own essential and mandated role as part of the coordinated and integrated effort of the Organization as a whole.

102. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B, the Secretary-General also submitted to the Committee on Information a report on ways and means of redressing differences in the allocation of resources, in particular the differences of support, in relation to the financing of the United Nations information centres. A further report will be submitted to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth session.

103. During the reporting period, the Department has continued to enhance computer and communication capacities of the United Nations information centres. Also, a computerized mailing list programme for microcomputers developed by the Department was successfully tested in several information centres. The programme will assist all information centres in record-keeping, labelling, the standardization of their lists of local contacts and in feedback reporting.

104. In its draft recommendations adopted on 28 May 1993, the Committee on Information requested the Secretary-General to study ways and means of rationalizing and effecting equitable disbursement of resources to all United Nations information centres. In this connection and also in accordance with earlier General Assembly resolutions, the Department is consulting other relevant organizations of the United Nations system in its efforts to devise appropriate cost-apportioning methods, where applicable. The Department has also requested the relevant organizations to establish a separate allocation for public information activities in their project budgets, so that the United Nations information centres would be able to draw on additional resources as necessary. A report on this issue will be submitted to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth session.

105. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 47/73 B, the General Assembly noted the substantial contribution by the Government of Poland and requested the Secretary-General to finalize, in consultation with the Polish authorities, arrangements for a United Nations information component in Warsaw. A report on this issue, which was submitted to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session, showed that there were practical and financial constraints yet to be resolved in order to implement this provision.

106. Paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 47/73 B called upon the Secretary-General to implement fully its recommendations regarding the establishment of a United Nations information centre in Sana'a, Yemen, as well

as the reactivation of the United Nations information centre in Tehran and the enhancing of the information centres in Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka.

107. The Department has initiated action to appoint a full-time Information Officer in Sana'a to head the United Nations information centre and to operate within the UNDP field office in Yemen.

108. Similarly, action has been initiated to appoint an Information Officer to head the reactivated information centre in Tehran and to operate within the UNDP field office. In addition, an Information Assistant and a Reference Assistant have already been appointed and computer equipment has been provided. The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have indicated that the extent of host Government support to the information centre in Tehran would be finalized when the Information Officer assumed his/her duties.

109. The information centres in Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka are fully operational, with the UNDP Resident Representatives serving as full-time centre Directors under the overall direction of the Department of Public Information. Measures have been taken to enhance these information centres within the Department's existing budgetary resources, including provision of computer equipment and staff training.

110. The Department considers the appointment of locally-recruited national information specialists as a critical element in the enhancement of all information centres. Accordingly, action has been initiated by the Secretary-General for the use of the National Information Officer category at information centres in the context of his programme budget proposals for 1994-1995 and for future biennia.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/47/21).

2/ Vol. V, No. 1 (Autumn 1992).

3/ A/AC.109/L.1797.